SET FOR ACTION IN WASHINGTON

As 2023 began, the 118th Congress was sworn in, bringing new faces and new political dynamics to the Capitol. In the House, Republicans have a slim majority, while Democrats hold a razor-thin majority in the Senate. Fortunately, ethanol remains a bipartisan issue in Washington, with strong supporters on both sides of the aisle who realize the importance of renewable fuels to America’s rural economy, the environment, and U.S. consumers.

As always, RFA’s presence in the nation’s capital is an important part of the ethanol industry’s success. RFA was there on Day One of the new Congress, strengthening connections with returning members and new members alike—relationships that will build upon past legislative achievements and pave the way for future policy successes. With split party control in Congress, leadership dynamics will certainly be different than the last Congress, and RFA’s approach to our legislative and regulatory agenda will adjust to the new reality. Even with the changes in this Congress, RFA will move forward with a robust and forward-thinking list of priorities in 2023.

At the top of RFA’s list is the continued support and preservation of the Renewable Fuel Standard. In particular, we will advocate for proper and timely implementation of robust renewable volume obligations for 2023 through 2025. Another priority will be to secure nationwide access to year-round E15. In the waning days of the 117th Congress, RFA was successful in working with the American Petroleum Institute and others to build support for year-round E15 legislation. Unfortunately, the language was not included in the final year-end omnibus package for 2022. But legislative efforts have been renewed in 2023 and will remain a focus of RFA until year-round E15 is secured. Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act’s tax incentive and grant programs will also be a high regulatory priority in 2023.

RFA will also be engaged in exploring legislative opportunities that leverage ethanol’s low carbon intensity and high octane value. Several legislative concepts in this area are expected to be considered, including the likely re-introduction of the Next Generation Fuels Act, as well as technology-neutral clean fuels legislation that fully accounts for the carbon lifecycle of all transportation fuel options and rewards the lowest-carbon fuels.

RFA is set for action in Washington and these priorities and others will drive the RFA legislative and regulatory agenda in 2023. We will continue to be the go-to resource on renewable fuels for the Biden administration and all members of Congress, regardless of their party affiliation, district or home state.
MEMBER LEADERSHIP

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The RFA Technical Committee focuses heavily on fuel specifications and standards under ASTM International, National Conference of Weights and Measures, International Organization for Standardization, Canadian General Standards Board, and other international standards organizations. This committee relies upon RFA's sought-after technical expertise and our prolonged leadership within these organizations.

CO-PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

The renewable fuels industry produces more than just ethanol. Renewable fuel facilities across the country also produce distillers grains, corn distillers oil, corn gluten, CO₂, and other products. The RFA Co-Products Committee focuses on issues relevant to all ethanol co-products, from research and educational programs to regulatory issues and trade. Members are involved daily in the production and marketing of co-products, making this committee an excellent forum for exchanging ideas and information.

NEW USES COMMITTEE

The RFA New Uses Committee focuses on the exploration of innovative and expanded uses for ethanol, co-products, and CO₂ as well as the application of novel production processes. Actions include identifying promising collaborators and providing them a broader forum for discovery and discussion. The committee also identifies and addresses associated research and development, technical, and regulatory issues that might arise from implementation.

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The goal of the RFA EH&S Committee is to ensure the U.S. ethanol industry and its supply chain employ a high standard of excellence in protecting our environment and the health and safety of its employees and citizens at large. Detailed technical discussions familiarize stakeholders on the variable and complex requirements of environmental regulatory compliance and standards adherence. This committee also identifies the need for research, guidance, and training to address worker safety and public health concerns. RFA's expertise and leadership in forums that address national transportation safety, emergency response, and health effects remains a key component.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Renewable Fuels PAC builds a stronger voice for American-made renewable fuels on Capitol Hill. Organized and operated by RFA members and staff, this Political Action Committee promotes consistent and forward-looking public policy essential to the growth and evolution of the industry by focusing on federal election activity.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

RFA's Young Professionals Network engages the ethanol industry's under-40 workforce through professional development activities. Regular collaboration with peers and seasoned leadership and a range of learning, training, and networking opportunities intends to sharpen the skills of these future leaders and bolster talent retention.