

Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act

Overview

The Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act would reduce the impacts the government mandated Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has on the economy by eliminating the corn based ethanol requirements, setting realistic targets of cellulosic ethanol at production levels, and rescinding the requirements of blending up to 15% ethanol into the fuel supply.

Specifically the legislation:

Title I

- Eliminates the conventional biofuels mandate, beginning in 2015. This effectively prohibits the use of corn-based ethanol in the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS).
- Because of the conventional biofuels mandate in current law, reduces the total RFS by 14.4 billion gallons in 2014 (not yet published by EPA) and by 15 billion gallons in 2015-22. In 2022, the total RFS will be 21 billion gallons instead of the 36 billion gallons in current law, a 42-percent reduction.
- Assures the 15 billion gallon reduction is all directed at the conventional biofuels mandate, so the bill revises the definition of renewable fuel to exclude conventional biofuel and to only permit renewable biomass and other advanced biofuels from qualifying under the RFS.
- Allows EPA to set realistic requirements of cellulosic ethanol production. Would amend the Clean Air Act to revise the RFS by requiring the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, in estimating the projected volume of cellulosic biofuel to be sold or introduced into commerce in the next year, to determine for each facility producing such biofuel during the current year and adjusts appropriate criteria.
- Requires the Administrator, in any year in which the Administrator reduces the applicable volume of cellulosic biofuel or biodiesel required in gasoline, to also reduce the applicable volume of renewable fuel and advanced biofuels required by the same volume.

Title II

- Rescinds EPA's E15 waivers and caps decision from 2012 that allows fuel to be blended at levels up to 15 percent of the fuel supply. This bill would cap the ethanol requirements at E10 (10 percent in the fuel supply).