



The Hon. Lee Zeldin, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

January 8, 2026

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

Clean Fuels and its members appreciate the robust Renewable Fuel Standard volumes proposed last June. This is the first proposal in the history of the program that accurately represents the potential of biomass-based diesel. The industry generates \$42.4 billion in economic activity, supports 107,400 jobs and \$5.8 billion in wages paid. The proposed RFS volumes and emphasis on domestic production will increase the benefits to \$50.2 billion in economic activity and 122,500 jobs. The direct economic benefit to farmers would be \$18.2 billion, according to a report from GlobalData.

We are grateful for your and your staff's efforts to get the RFS program back on track, after prior administration missed the November 2024 statutory deadline. We acknowledge that the 2025 government shutdown impacted EPA's timeline for the RFS rule. And we recognize the complexity of the proposed program changes combined with the necessary reallocation of small refinery exemptions.

Nevertheless, the ongoing delays in the rulemaking are creating intolerable uncertainty for biomass-based diesel producers and for farmers. America's farmers are already making planting decisions for next season. Biomass-based diesel producers and soybean processors are currently negotiating feedstock contracts, fuel production and offtake agreements, and investment decisions for 2026. The lack of certainty in the RFS program is even now impacting those market decisions.

Producers cannot navigate the complex program changes and fuel volumes without final rules. News sources report that, because of the uncertainty, biodiesel producers are idle or planning to idle.¹ Refineries that converted capacity to renewable diesel production are reverting to petroleum processing.² The biomass-based diesel industry's investments and planned growth are at risk with the delay in the RFS volumes for the current year.

Delays in the rulemaking compound uncertainty throughout the RFS program for producers. Under existing EPA regulations, the 2025 compliance deadline will be automatically delayed until June 1

¹ See for example: Williams P. "[Crimson Renewables to pause California biodiesel output](#)." Argus, Dec. 8, 2025.

² E.g., CVR Energy. "[CVR Energy Reports Third Quarter 2025 Results](#)." Oct. 29, 2025.

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if the proposal is not finalized by January 30. The provision was implemented to provide certainty and legal reliance to refiners. However, the delay in compliance will delay signals to the market needed to coordinate feedstock supply chains and fuel demand and bring biomass-based diesel production back online. Biomass-based diesel producers and farmers will be materially harmed by the delay.

Biomass-based diesel is essential to America's farm and energy security. As Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins has consistently said, "The RVO gives the markets the incentive to invest in American products for American consumers and to export around the world. America's national security depends on our energy security, and biofuels are a crucial asset that brings more jobs and helps farmers in rural America."³

Domestic biodiesel and renewable diesel production represents 10% of the value of every bushel of soybeans grown in the United States. U.S. soybean growers continue to increase farm productivity, harvesting 4.3 billion bushels of soybeans this season worth \$45 billion. And with more than \$6 billion of investment, U.S. soybean processors are expected to crush a record 2.5 billion of those bushels this year. A slowdown in biomass-based diesel production caused by uncertainty in the market-setting RFS program will harm farmers and undermine investments in processing capacity.

We ask EPA to publish the rule in the Federal Register by the end of January to ensure that it comes into full effect during the first quarter of the year, enabling compliance to remain on track. In the absence of a final rule by January 30, we ask EPA to maintain the March 31 compliance deadline to mitigate harm to biofuel producers, oilseed processors, and farmers.

Sincerely,



Kurt Kovarik
Vice President, Federal Affairs
Clean Fuels Alliance America

CC:

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³ USDA Farm Services Agency. [Trump Administration Announces \\$12 Billion Farmer Bridge Payments for American Farmers Impacted by Unfair Market Disruptions](#), Dec. 8, 2025. USDA. "[Secretary Rollins Supports EPA's Record Setting Biofuels Blending Requirements](#)," June 13, 2025.