



**Senator Collins and Senator Merkley Lead Letter Urging EPA Action on
RFS Electricity Pathway**

Bipartisan Group of 9 Senators Sign Letter, with 2020 RVO Anticipated Soon

Washington, DC – June 12, 2019 – A bipartisan group of nine Senators, led by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), sent a letter (<https://rfspower.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-06-11-Letter-to-Administrator-Wheeler-re-E-Rins-Report-Language.pdf>) to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler this week urging action to activate the renewable electricity pathway in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The Senators' letter follows a provision in the Interior-EPA Appropriations bill signed by President Trump on February 15 (115 days ago) that "strongly encourage(d)" (<https://rfspower.com/rfs-power-coalition-applauds-passage-of-interior-appropriations-bill/>) the EPA to process applications from electricity producers to participate in the Renewable Fuel Standard within 90 days.

"We greatly appreciate the commitment of Senator Collins, Senator Merkley and all 9 signers of this letter, to hold the EPA accountable for its failure to include electricity in the RFS," said Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of Biomass Power Association. "This is absolutely critical to the biomass power industry and its supply chain including loggers and forest owners who contribute significantly to rural economies. The EPA has recognized that powering an electric vehicle with biomass is 96% less carbon emitting (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2014-16413/p-237>) than using gasoline in a traditional engine. Including electricity in the RFS is something we can all agree needs to be done right away."

"We shouldn't need our Congress to push EPA leadership to take action that's already spelled out in the law, but it's clear that has become necessary," said Patrick Serfass, executive director of American Biogas Council. "We appreciate all the Senators who stepped up to support the RFS and action to activate the renewable electricity pathway. It's time for EPA to process the applications already submitted and allow these renewable electricity projects to create new revenue streams and jobs, especially on American farms, while they also decarbonize our transportation sector."

In addition to the Senators' letter, to push for action, the RFS Power Coalition has filed a Petition (<https://rfspower.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Bloomberg-Environment-2.8.19.pdf>) with the DC Circuit court of appeals and just last week, 21 members of Congress (<https://rfspower.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Press-Release-Letter-Updated.pdf>) sent a letter to the EPA urging action on outstanding RFS pathways,

including electricity. As of today, it's been 11 years and 175 days (<https://rfspower.com/>) since President Bush signed RFS2 into law, which included electricity, yet none of the more than 40 projects EPA has have been approved.

About the RFS Power Coalition

The RFS Power Coalition is a group of organizations dedicated to activating the renewable electricity pathway of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The Coalition is led by the Biomass Power Association and American Biogas Council, the trade associations that represent, respectively, domestic biomass power producers who use organic fuels like forest residues, and biogas-to-electricity producers like dairy farmers and wastewater treatment facilities. All feedstocks used by these technologies – biomass, biogas and biogenic waste – qualify as renewable transportation fuels that should be included in the D3 cellulosic and D5 advanced fuel categories of the RFS. <https://rfspower.com>