

Renewable Fuels Standard Integrity

RFA will remain vigilant in our effort to maintain the integrity of the RFS program and will advocate for continued growth as EPA considers the future of the RFS in 2026 and beyond.

The Facts

- With the goals of cleaner air, a stronger farm economy, national energy security and diversifying our fuel choice, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, establishing the world's first Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requiring an annual increase in the amount of biofuels like ethanol in the US fuel supply.
- Today, the RFS Renewable Volume Obligation topped 22 billion gallons for all biofuels, leading to a record 16.1 billion gallons of ethanol production in 2024 and an annual ethanol blend rate topping 10.4%.

VOTERS SUPPORT THE RFS

66% of voters support the RFS

22% Don't know/no opinion

12% Opposed

Morning Consult National Tracking Poll, 2023

The Issue

- The last year for the statutory setting of RVO levels was 2022, after which, the EPA is authorized to set annual renewable volume obligations.
- While the EPA's "Set" rule volumes for 2023-2025 were not as robust as the industry was seeking, the three-year RVO creates a firm foundation for the future of the program and certainty for all sectors.
- The EPA is behind the schedule defined in statute for setting the RVOS for 2026 and beyond.

The Solution

- RFA strongly advocates for the following to assure long-term RFS integrity:
 - Advocate for timely EPA action on Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for 2026 and beyond.
 - Stress that future RVOs need to reflect increased production capacity for advanced biofuels like sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and cellulosic biofuel from corn kernel fiber, encourage the use of technologies like carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), and align with incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and other policies that promote innovation in low-carbon fuels.
 - Urge EPA to increase transparency regarding criteria and justification for granting Small Refinery Exemptions (SREs) to maintain RFS integrity.
 - Ensure fair and transparent pricing for Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs).