Advocacy and Industry Support

The RFA has been the voice of the U.S. ethanol industry for almost 40 years. Effective advocacy in Washington today requires a strong technical foundation, effective messaging across numerous platforms, and passionate grassroots. With a combined 175 years of ethanol industry experience, the RFA staff brings unmatched industry knowledge and unrivaled dedication to every forum where biofuels are being discussed. Over the past year, the RFA testified before Congress, participated in regulatory hearings, argued in federal and district courts, and spoke at countless national and international events.

The RFA is far more than its staff, of course. As a producer-led organization where every company has a voice and a vote on policy, it is the membership that has driven our industry’s success. By hosting policy makers at their facilities and participating in Washington Fly-ins, RFA member companies effectively deliver the ethanol industry’s message to key decisionmakers. Through its various Committees, RFA member companies direct the association’s technical, safety, research, marketing and regulatory priorities. And with regular interaction at RFA Board meetings and the National Ethanol Conference, RFA Members stay abreast of the policy, marketing, and technology developments that affect their bottom line.

If past is prologue, the coming months and years will bring dramatic change to ethanol policy and marketing. Count on the RFA and its membership to continue to lead the conversation, to develop the technical underpinnings, and to shape the message that will assure future growth.

Photo: MANDEL NGAN/AFP via Getty Images
RFA Committees

The RFA Technical Committee focuses on fuel specifications and standards development by ASTM International, National Conference of Weights and Measures, regulatory bodies, and other organizations. Committee members monitor technical issues impacting day-to-day plant operations, such as storage and handling, transportation, and fuel quality, as well as state and regional regulations and international blending practices.

Committee Chair: Cathy Woodliff, The Andersons, Inc.

The RFA Co-Products Committee focuses on issues relevant to co-products from ethanol production, including distillers grains, corn distillers oil, corn gluten, carbon dioxide and other products. Committee members address operational and regulatory issues concerning production, storage and handling, transportation, international trade, animal nutrition, and animal feed safety.

Committee Chair: Matt Fitzthum, CHS, Inc.

The RFA Environmental, Health and Safety Committee examines and educates industry stakeholders on the implementation of environmental regulations for production, storage and handling, and transportation of ethanol. The committee tackles complex regulatory issues and provides guidance to members. This committee also leads the industry in advocating safe practices in ethanol production, storage and handling, transportation, and use. Committee members monitor and share information on hazardous materials, safety standards, and federal and state safety regulations. The Committee also supports continuing education for every link of the ethanol supply chain.

Committee Chair: Steve Schleicher, Pinnacle Engineering, Inc.

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.

Committee Chair: Randy Doyal, Al-Corn Clean Fuel LLC