



National Biodiesel Board 605 Clark Ave. PO Box 104898 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4898 (800) 841-5849 phone (573) 635-7913 fax	National Biodiesel Board 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 505 Washington, DC 20004 (202) 737-8801 phone www.biodiesel.org
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August 16, 2018

The Hon. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1605

The Hon. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX)
Chairman, House on Agriculture
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

The Hon. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Ranking Member Peterson,

On behalf of the U.S. biodiesel industry, we want to reiterate our strong support for passage of a new five-year Farm Bill that includes funding for programs that support biodiesel and renewable energy as well as reauthorization of the National Oilheat Research Alliance program. We are pleased that the House and Senate bills reauthorize these programs and that the Senate bill provides mandatory funding for some of the existing Energy Title programs.

The existing Energy Title programs play an important role in providing markets for agricultural products and economic growth for rural America. These programs, including the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels and the Biodiesel Education Program, should be reauthorized and funded in a new five-year Farm Bill.

Biodiesel is made from surplus and by-product vegetable oils, distillers corn oil, and waste greases like recycled cooking oil and animal fats. There are approximately 100 biodiesel production plants spread all across the United States. Biodiesel producers include farmer-owned cooperatives and other farmer-owned companies, agribusinesses and independently owned biodiesel producers. Many of the biodiesel production facilities in the United States are located in rural areas, and the feedstocks used to produce biodiesel are grown or originate in rural areas.

While the biodiesel market was initially reliant on surplus vegetable oils as the primary feedstocks, animal fats and greases are now a prominent and growing portion of the industry. In fact, biodiesel and renewable diesel are now one of the largest markets for animal fats, utilizing billions of pounds of fats annually and adding millions of dollars of value to animal production each year. In addition to providing a growing and valuable market for rendered animal fats, biodiesel helps increase production of soy meal used for livestock feed. Between 2005 and 2009, the increased demand for soybean oil increased the production of soybean meal, which subsequently has lowered soybean meal prices for livestock feed by \$16 to \$48 per ton from where they would have otherwise been.



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Given the industry's agricultural roots and benefits provided to U.S. farmers and rural communities, programs supporting biodiesel are an appropriate and important piece of the Farm Bill. The biodiesel industry has a particular interest in two existing Farm Bill Energy Title programs—the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels as well as reauthorization of the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

The Biodiesel Fuel Education Program plays a vital role in helping expand marketplace acceptance and use of biodiesel as a clean-burning, sustainable diesel replacement fuel. NBB urges the continuation and funding of this program in the next Farm Bill.

The Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels supports a stable and expanding production level of advanced biofuels and bioenergy. The Bioenergy Program has been beneficial to many biodiesel producers as the industry continues to establish itself in the competitive marketplace and it provides increased value to farmers and ranchers for their agricultural waste and co-products.

The National Oilheat Research Alliance has been a key partner to the National Biodiesel Board and has worked to develop the use of biodiesel in home heating equipment. Additionally, they have educated consumers and service professionals as to the advantages of a renewable product made in the USA. The permanent extension included in the Senate bill will ensure that this partnership and support for American made energy products continues.

Again, we strongly support passage of a new five-year Farm Bill that includes funding for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, the Biodiesel Education Program and other programs that support renewable energy as well as reauthorization of the National Oilheat Research Alliance program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt A. Kovarik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kurt Kovarik
Vice President, Federal Affairs
National Biodiesel Board