

# ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

**W**hat does it take to be respected and effective in Washington? A strong technical foundation, intelligent messaging with a broad reach, and members and staff who are passionate and informed. Each year, the RFA testifies before Congress, takes part in regulatory hearings, addresses complex technical and scientific issues, educates consumers, argues in court, and speaks at countless national and international events. While some of this work was upended due to the pandemic, it did not stop us from finding new and different ways to accomplish RFA's mission.

Our annual Washington board meeting took place virtually in July, allowing for an all-digital round of Capitol Hill visits where our board got to hear from, and speak with, Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Dick Durbin (D-IL); House Reps. Cindy Axne (D-IA), Angie Craig (D-MN), Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Roger Marshall (R-KS), Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Cheri Bustos (D-IL). The event also included Ambassador Gregg Doud, chief agricultural negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; USDA Deputy Secretary Steve Censky; and Anne Idsal, principal deputy assistant administrator for the U.S. EPA.

Since 2009, RFA has co-sponsored the Iowa Science & Sustainability Tour, which brings federal policy-makers to Iowa for a hands-on experience with today's renewable fuels industry. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this year's tour was canceled so RFA replaced it with a Virtual Heartland Tour that attracted many congressional staff and other federal and state decisionmakers. The event included a series of educational videos on timely topics and Q&As with farmers, ethanol producers and one of the country's top fuel retailers.

Through RFA's various committees, our member companies direct the association's technical, safety, market research, and other 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, develop the technical underpinnings, and shape the message that will assure future growth.



## RFA COMMITTEES

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**The RFA Technical Committee** focuses on fuel specifications and standards development by ASTM International, National Conference on 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 Currently Open*

**The RFA Coproducts Committee** focuses on issues relevant to coproducts from ethanol production, including distillers grains, corn distillers oil, corn gluten 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 RFA New Uses Committee** focuses on expanded uses for our ethanol, carbon dioxide, coproducts, and processes. Research and development projects like utilizing ethanol for use in medium- and heavy-duty engines or for producing electricity or carbon dioxide used to produce bio-based chemicals are explored. The committee will work to support R&D and technical and regulatory issues that arise for new uses.

*Committee Chair Currently Open*

**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, AI-Corn Clean Fuel LLC*

