



# Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition

*Advocating for Public Policies to Promote the Development & Production of Alternative Fuels, Renewable Chemicals, Biobased Products, and Sustainable Aviation Fuels*

## **AFCC's June 2019 Capitol Hill Round Up: House Passes FY2020 Funding Bills**

**House Democrats passed** a \$985 billion four-bill spending package (H.R. 2740) on June 19 by a vote of 226-203, with seven Democrats joining all Republicans in voting against the spending package, and a \$383 billion five-bill spending package (H.R. 3055) on June 25, 2019 by a vote of 227-194 on June 25, 2019, with one Democrat joining all Republicans in voting against the spending package.

The "no" votes from Republicans were due largely to the riders that have been included in the spending bills which Republicans considered to be "poison pills."

The spending packages establish the 2020 fiscal year (FY2020) funding levels for the operations and programs carried out by the majority of federal agencies, which are overseen by five House and Senate appropriation subcommittees: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food & Drug Administration (Ag); Commerce, Justice & Science (CJS); Water & Energy (E&W); Interior & Environment (I&E); and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (Transportation).

**The Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition (AFCC) identified 51 programs on which to focus its advocacy efforts that were targeted for elimination or severe cuts (amounting to cuts of \$54 billion) in the FY2020 budget that the Administration delivered to Congress on March 11, 2019.**

This includes four programs that have not been funded for several years which AFCC wishes to restore -- the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and Biomass Research and Development (BRD), and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Environmental and Energy Program under the Office of the Secretary and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) Research, Engineering and Development Program -- along with seven Department of Defense programs that are funded in full, but which AFCC wishes to monitor throughout the appropriations process, due to the importance of these programs to AFCC member interests, to ensure their proposed FY2020 funding levels were not reduced.

**Except for the four programs that have not received funding for several years that AFCC wished to restore, all of AFCC funding level requests were met or exceeded in the spending packages passed by the House.**



AFCC is delighted with these funding levels -- and the success of its advocacy for the programs it has identified -- and thanked the appropriation subcommittee members and professional staff, as well as other key House members, for the passage of these funding levels.

**You may view AFCC's funding level requests, compared with the funding levels passed by the House, [here](#).**

The Senate has not yet taken up any of its fiscal FY2020 spending bills, with GOP leaders saying that they first want to reach an agreement on FY2020 budget allocations with the White House.

Without an agreement on these budget allocations, and a budget deal with the House that reflects these allocations, the GOP leadership says, the two chambers will face arduous negotiations to reconcile their spending bills later this year that could force a government shutdown, require a continuing resolution (CR), or risk a Presidential veto.

Of concern to many of the House Republicans and the Senate's GOP leadership is that the spending packages passed by the House rejects many of the environmental and land-use policy roll-backs championed by the Trump administration.

AFCC sent out emails this week to all Senate Appropriation Committee and Subcommittee chairs, ranking members, members, and professional staff urging them to approve the funding levels that have been passed by the House for the programs AFCC has identified and for which AFCC has advocated for several months.

AFCC also has been meeting with staff for the senior Republican and Democratic Senate appropriation subcommittee members and appropriation subcommittee professional staff.

No serious objections have been raised during any of these meetings to the funding levels that AFCC is requesting. The sole constraint that has been mentioned time and time again is the lack of specific budget allocations for each of the Senate appropriation subcommittees.