



# Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition

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

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## AFCC's Collaborative Advocacy Efforts

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*“The U.S. government doesn't build your computers, nor do you fly aboard a U.S. government owned and operated airline. Private industry routinely takes technologies pioneered by the government and turns them into cheap, reliable and robust industries.” – Peter Diamandis*

*“Our objective is to encourage the U.S. Congress to fund and enact policies that promote cutting-edge ideas and attract the private sector investment and entrepreneurship necessary to bring these ideas to market.” – CJ Evans, Executive Director, Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition*

**HERE'S OUR PURPOSE:** To carry out a collaborative advocacy effort focused on the shared objectives of industry groups and companies interested in alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuels that:

- Builds on the advocacy expertise that already is in place,
- Adds value to these efforts, and
- Focuses specifically on the annual appropriations that provide funding for the federal agency programs that implement and carry out the policies important to these industry sectors.

The [Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton](#) (KTS) law firm, which has one-third of the Fortune 500 as clients, and [American Diversified Energy Consulting Services](#) (ADE) have teamed up to lead this initiative.

### **HERE'S WHY AFCC IS IMPORTANT:**

- **AFCC can improve your bottom line.** The issues on which AFCC is working – such as funding for programs that promote innovation, efficiency and sustainability; sufficient staffing to expedite regulatory reviews; and federal tax policy – impact the costs of operations by creating savings through greater efficiency, better performance, reduced maintenance (hence, more time in service), and fewer health and environmental impacts (thus, lower mitigation costs). The more AFCC does, the more it can lower these costs.
- AFCC adds value to existing advocacy efforts in five key ways:
  - 1. Industry organizations that receive federal government support cannot take actions to influence Congress.** The intention of AFCC's collaborative effort is to do what these organizations cannot do – in cooperation with existing advocacy resources.
  - 2. Existing resources sometimes can be spread too thin and important issues may receive less attention than they need.** While existing industry associations, advocacy groups, and companies with government affairs departments and staff who are active on Capitol Hill do an excellent job, **they cannot do everything.** In setting priorities and



focusing resources on priority issues, some issues have to be given less attention. **Issues that are not a central area of interest – or which have only a tangential or indirect impact on these interests – often, of necessity, receive less attention.**

**3. AFCC makes additional resources available.** AFCC has two programmatic focuses: **(a)** advocating for Congressional appropriations to support programs and policies that promote broader use of alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuels. This, to ensure sufficient federal agency staffing to carry out these programs, and agency missions and functions (such as expedited regulatory reviews and federal tax policies); **(b)** advocating for, promoting, and initiating legislation that advances the interests of the alternative fuel, renewable chemical, biobased product and sustainable aviation fuel sectors.

**4. AFCC is monitoring appropriations and legislative issues related to alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products, and sustainable aviation fuels.**

This effort is aimed at:

- ✓ **Supplementing – and coordinating with** – the work that is being done by other associations, groups, and firms.
- ✓ **Avoiding losses** – such as those that almost occurred during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress when the FY2018 appropriations bills passed by the House and reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee rescinded or greatly restricted funds and eliminated staff for renewable energy programs.

**AFCC's advocacy was successful** in its first year of operations in restoring funding in the FY2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act at prior year funding levels for all but four programs for which AFCC had advocated. The programs that did not receive funding had not been funded for several years but, because they have the potential to offer value to AFCC's member companies, AFCC had attempted to revive these programs. The results of AFCC's advocacy can be seen at: [Results of AFCC FY2020 Requests](#) and [Final FY2020 Funding Levels](#).

**5. Current priorities: AFCC has identified 37 “industry-critical” priorities in the fiscal year FY2021 appropriations that have been proposed in the President’s FY2021 Budget.**

*These are programs whose authorizations or appropriations have expired and not been renewed, or have been targeted for significant cuts or elimination in the President's Budget.*

## **HERE'S WHAT ELSE AFCC IS DOING:**

AFCC works to:

- ➔ Identify federal budget appropriation issues important to the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuel sectors that have the potential of being overlooked or not getting the attention they need,
  - Say, because a company and its advocates are focusing on other higher priority issues;
  - Because a company and its advocates are working on broader federal issues and do not have the time or sufficient technical expertise to address; or
  - Because an issue is being overshadowed by other issues or is advancing with little attention or notice.

- Determine how best to address these issues with existing and fill-in-the-gaps resources by:
- 1. Maintaining contact and communicating** with its member companies and the industry associations whose interests are affected;
  - 2. Building on existing channels of communication**, or where there is sensitivity surrounding advocacy on these issues, establishing a separate channel of communication;
  - 3. Maintaining regular contact (in addition to the contacts already in place)** with federal agencies – and the individuals within these agencies – who oversee and implement the programs important to the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products, and sustainable aviation fuel industries for the sole purpose of having direct communication and feedback re: agency, division, and department budgets, program priorities, and implementation steps (to help identify budget line items, current and future program priorities, and program fixes that would be useful to pursue through appropriations and other bills advancing in the U.S. Congress);
  - 4. Keeping a running tally of the common issues related to alternative fuel, renewable chemical, biobased product, and sustainable aviation fuel interests** – including research and development, energy security, environmental sustainability, the development and deployment of alternative fuels and chemicals, fuel and chemical certification and qualification, and technological and operational innovations that have application to the aviation industry – as well as other related issues that are being addressed by each company and industry association and their advocacy firms;
  - 5. Focusing on technical issues** important to the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuel sectors;
  - 6. Sending out alerts** when an issue is being overlooked or not adequately addressed;
  - 7. Determining how to collaborate** on these issues; as well as
  - 8. Determining how to avoid duplicative efforts** so existing advocacy resources can be better utilized and directed toward the issues of concern;
  - 9. Ensuring consistent messaging** by sharing suggested talking points and exchanging information on the talking points that have the most impact in Hill meetings;
  - 10. Responding to issues as needed** by (1) filling in gaps, (2) providing technical expertise, (3) communicating with the companies and groups that are taking the lead in addressing issues of importance to the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuel sectors, (4) making separate mention on behalf of individual members on issues of importance to those members, and (5) bringing as much influence as possible to bear on priority issues.

#### **HERE'S HOW AFCC IS CARRYING OUT THESE INITIATIVES:**

- **A team dedicated to AFCC** is being co-led by **Mark J. Riedy**, who chairs KTS's Energy Team and is a leading project finance attorney; and **CJ Evans**, Managing Director of ADE.
- An **Executive Vice President for Policy, Rina Singh, PhD.**, with over 16 years of industry and Hill experience (see [Welcome, Rina Singh](#)), handles the day-to-day operations of AFCC.
- **An online forum and email alert system has been established** to disseminate updated information and allow for feedback and input (see [www.AltFuelChem.org](http://www.AltFuelChem.org)).

- ➔ **Significant technical expertise is available** through the resources offered by KTS, ADE, and **Lee Enterprises Consulting (LEC)**, the world's largest bioeconomy consulting group with more than 100 subject matter experts. (For a list of the resources available from KTS, ADE, and LEC, see [www.AltFuelChem.org/resources](http://www.AltFuelChem.org/resources).)
- ➔ **AFCC also is preparing to reach out to municipalities, counties, and other local divisions of government** who can benefit from or will be hurt by the appropriations requests and legislative issues on which AFCC is making to alert them to these impacts and recruit their participation in and support of AFCC's advocacy efforts.

## **Here's how you can help:**

### **Please become an AFCC member/**

#### **1. Here are the benefits of being an AFCC member:**

- ✓ You will have an additional full-time, multi-faceted team working on your behalf, monitoring and addressing Congressional appropriations and legislative issues that impact the federal programs and policies important to the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuel sectors;
- ✓ AFCC's team will strive in every way possible to cooperate and coordinate with the companies, firms, and associations that are working in whole or in part on these issues so that AFCC can build on and enhance the advocacy expertise that already is in place;
- ✓ This will allow members to stay abreast of the developments in Washington, DC (as well as significant developments at the state level) related to legislative and government funding issues;
- ✓ It also will allow members to do this with only a minimal time commitment, while furthering coordination with the efforts you already have underway.

#### **2. Here's what you will receive as an AFCC member:**

- ✓ Up-to-the-minute information – and immediate notification about important developments – on federal appropriations, legislation, and policies affecting the alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, biobased products and sustainable aviation fuel sectors;
- ✓ Ongoing communications while the U.S. Congress is in session, which will include regular updates, lists of key hearings and conferences, issues to watch, suggested talking points, and lists of resources where additional information can be found.

## **HERE'S WHERE AFCC IS LOCATED:**

- ➔ **The AFCC team** is housed in part in KTS's Washington, DC offices, steps away from Metro Center, the U.S. Treasury, and the White House, and in ADE's Washington, DC office, across from Metro Center, two blocks from the KTS office.

## **PLEASE JOIN AFCC TODAY:**

The more members AFCC has and the more support they provide, the more AFCC can do ... to the benefit of each company and the industry as a whole.

For information on becoming an AFCC member please call or email Rina Singh, PhD., AFCC's Executive Vice President for Policy: **Office:** 202-922-0144 **Email:** [Rina@AltFuelChem.org](mailto:Rina@AltFuelChem.org).

For more information on AFCC, please visit AFCC's website at: [www.AltFuelChem.org](http://www.AltFuelChem.org).