



# 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 August 2019 Capitol Hill Round Up: Senate Passes and President Trump Signs Two-Year Budget Deal**

**The U.S. Senate approved a budget deal on August 1, 2019 that would increase spending across federal agencies over the next two years.**

The vote was 67-28, with a majority of Senate Republicans supporting the measure. President Trump signed the budget deal on August 2.

The budget deal increases discretionary spending by \$320 billion in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. It contains a nonbinding provision to ban partisan policy riders on appropriations bills. It also ends the automatic "sequester" created by the 2011 Budget Control Act, which would have mandated \$125 billion in automatic spending cuts for FY2020.

It is anticipated that Congress will finish the 12 annual spending bills for fiscal year (FY) 2020 before the new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1, 2019.

**However, due to the limited number of legislative days remaining after Congress returns from its August recess on September 9, a stop-gap funding bill, known as a continuing resolution or CR, will likely be needed to keep government agencies operating after September 30,** until the FY2020 spending bills are passed by the Senate, with differences reconciled between the House and Senate measures, and signed by President Trump.

The House already has passed 10 of the 12 annual spending bills for FY2020, including the Agriculture-Rural Development, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water, Interior-EPA, and Transportation appropriation bills, which include the programs and funding levels that are being championed by the Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition (AFCC).

**You may view AFCC's funding level requests for these programs and the funding levels that were approved in June by the U.S. House of Representatives [here](#).**



Senate staff are expected to draft the appropriations bills over the break, with markups expected soon after the Senate returns from recess on September 9.

Senate appropriators will likely conference those bills with the House versions.

Both chambers are expected to move these bills to the floor for passage ahead of the new fiscal year. There's widespread acknowledgment on Capitol Hill that all of these bills won't be completed, and Congress will need to pass stopgap spending legislation in late September for at least some agencies to avoid a shutdown when current funding expires.