



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 2023 Funding & Legislative Requests

EPA PRIORITY #1

INTERIOR & ENVIRONMENT (I&E) APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

AFCC's first priority funding request for the EPA's Smoke Preparedness Program is shown in green text and summarized in the table below

The legislative request associated with this funding request is shown on pages 2-3

Subcommittee: Interior & Environment

Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Account / Program:	FY 2019 Appropriation	FY 2020 Appropriation	FY 2021 Appropriation	FY 2022 Appropriation	President's FY 2023 Budget	AFCC's FY 2023 REQUEST	Notes
EPA: State and Tribal Assistance Grants							

Including:

Pollution Prevention Program, Smoke Preparedness Grants (per section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act) See Footnote below							
FY Appropriation	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$4,000,000	Pending	Increase per footnote below	

Smoke from wildfires releases large amounts of *carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors* into the atmosphere, as well as *volatile and semi-volatile organic materials and nitrogen oxides* that form ozone and *organic particulate matter*, leading to harmful exposures to the populations impacted by the ever-increasing incidence and intensity of wildfires -- first responders, local residents, wildlife, and now, even distant populations.



One effective and long-lasting way of implementing smoke preparedness to protect public health would be to eliminate – or at least reduce – one of the major contributors to wildfires: the accumulations of diseased, dying, and insect-infested trees and underbrush, fallen trees, slash piles, discarded forest waste from timber sales and thinning operations, and small diameter branches and treetops discarded by timber operations, which increase the intensity and serve as tinder for starting and spreading wildfires. This would allow a significant liability and threat to public health, natural habitats, wildlife, and private property, to be turned into an asset that creates jobs, stimulates economic development in underserved rural areas, puts the Nation on a path to sustainability, and reduces the incidence and intensity of wildfire smoke health effects to large populations (consistent with *Part C, Subpart I, Section 7470(3), Congressional Declaration of Purpose*).

Hence, this would be an effective and meaningful approach to protecting public health under *Part C, Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality, of the Clean Air Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-206), 42 USC 85, as amended in 1990 (P.L. 101-549)*.

AFCC requests that the FY2022 appropriation for smoke preparedness grants be increased to a minimum of \$20 million in FY2023 to match the FY2022 appropriation of \$20 million to the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Forest System for “creating incentives for the increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands” to remove those materials from National Forests that contribute to the incidence and intensity of wildfires (*per page 343, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, HR 2471*).

AFCC also requests that the following language be added at the end of heading (15) under Title II, Environmental Protection Agency, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, as shown below in **blue text** in the excerpt from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2022, H.R. 2471, page 338:

(15) \$4,000,000 shall be for grants under section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act for wildfire smoke preparedness grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, not more than 3 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section: *Provided Further*, That, for the purposes of smoke preparedness and for providing cost-effective incentives to qualified entities under contract or through a grant with a Federal agency for removing hazardous materials from Federally administered lands that cause or contribute to catastrophic wildfires, which are the source of the majority of smoke affecting public health, with said removal being consistent with the smoke preparedness program and Part C,



Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality, of the Clean Air Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-206), 42 USC 85, as amended in 1990 (P.L. 101-549), the Administrator of the Environmental Agency shall adopt the following definition of “Forest Residues,” which is consistent with and will carry out the mandate for “Policies Relating to Biomass Energy” in section 432 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, and in every appropriations act since 2017, that the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall “ jointly ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies and recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management,” which includes the removal of hazardous materials that contribute to catastrophic wildfires that can destroy forest resources and “does not cause conversion of forest to non-forest use”: *Provided Further*, That the definition for “Forest Residuals” shall be used to define which materials can be removed from Federally administered lands as part of the Agency’s smoke preparedness program and, by extension, as part of the wildfire and firefighting programs of other Federal agencies, which shall be used to expand the definition of biomass that may be removed from Federal lands that are at risk from wildfire under the definition of “Renewable Biomass” in section 201(1)(I)(v) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 10–140, and 40 CFR 80.1401, with said expansion directed at addressing the Nation’s ever increasing wildfire hazards, with the biomass that is defined as “Forest Residuals” being made available at no cost to the private sector as a market-stimulator and incentive for the production of renewable fuels which shall qualify for the credits under 40 CFR 80.1401, 1425, 1426, and 1427, commonly known as Renewable Identification Numbers or “RINs,” as well as for the production of renewable chemicals and biobased products, with “Forest Residuals” being defined as follows: “The term ‘forest residuals’ means diseased, dying, and insect-infested trees and underbrush, fallen trees, slash piles, discarded forest waste from timber sales and thinning operations, sawdust, and small diameter branches and tree tops discarded by timber operations, to reduce the dangers, destruction, and occurrences of wildfires, which release large amounts of carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors into the atmosphere, as well as volatile and semi-volatile organic materials and nitrogen oxides that form ozone and organic particulate matter, leading to harmful exposures to first responders, local residents, wildlife, and distant populations, as well as losses of forest resources, wildlife, habitats, property, and lives”;