



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 FY2025 Appropriation Requests – I&E #2

FY2025 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS FOR INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES OF KEY IMPORTANCE TO AFCC'S 150+ MEMBER COMPANIES

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Appropriations Subcommittee:

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

I&E Priority: #2

Federal Agencies:

Department of Interior (DOI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Agency Account:

DOI: Departmental Offices; Office of the Secretary; Departmental Operations

DOI: Department-wide Programs, Wildland Fire Management

EPA: Environmental Programs and Management

EPA: Science and Technology, Clean Air and Climate

EPA: State and Tribal Assistance

Program Title:

DOI: Department-wide Programs, Wildland Fire Management

- Fuel Management Activities
- Renewal of an authorization for interdepartmental transfers of funds

EPA: Environmental Programs and Management, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

EPA: Science and Technology, Clean Air and Climate, Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards

EPA: State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Pollution Prevention Program

- Multi-Media and Single Media Pollution, Control, and Abatement Grants
- Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants
- Smoke Preparedness Grants

EPA: Clean Air Act, Forest Residuals

EPA: Modernization of GHG Modeling Studies

EPA: Elimination of filing fees for Toxic Substances Control Act

Amount Requested by AFCC:

See the following table showing prior year funding levels and AFCC's FY2025 appropriations requests, followed by AFCC's Rational / Explanation for each of its eight priorities



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AFCC's 2025 Appropriations Requests – I&E #2

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES KEY PROGRAMS OF IMPORTANCE TO AFCC'S 150+ MEMBER COMPANIES

14 requests | 8 priorities | AFCC's priorities are indicated in green text

Subcommittee: Interior & Environment

Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Account / Program:	FY 2021 Appropriation	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation	FY 2024 Appropriation	President's FY 2025 Budget	AFCC's FY 2025 Request	
DOI: Departmental Offices; Office of the Secretary; Departmental Operations See Rational / Explanation (1) below							
A no cost request using existing authorities and appropriations to increase use of unsolicited proposals						See AFCC's FY2025 I&E #1 Request	
DOI: Department-wide Programs, Wildland Fire Management See Rational / Explanation (2) below							
FY Appropriation	\$992,623,000	\$1,026,097,000	\$663,786,000	\$1,113,471,000		\$1,213,471,000	
Including:							
■ DOI: Fuels Management Activities See Rational / Explanation (2) below							
FY Appropriation	\$219,964,000	\$227,000,000	\$247,000,000	\$214,450,000		\$250,000,000	
■ DOI: An authorization of interdepartmental transfers of funds appropriated for wildfire management between the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture will facilitate and expedite wildfire management programs and projects See Rational / Explanation (2) below							
Authorization	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000		\$50,000,000	



Subcommittee: Interior & Environment

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Account / Program:	FY 2021 Appropriation	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation	FY 2024 Appropriation	President's FY 2025 Budget	AFCC's FY 2025 Request	
EPA: Environmental Programs and Management See Rational / Explanation (1) below							
A no cost request using existing authorities and appropriations to increase use of unsolicited proposals						See AFCC's FY2025 I&E #1 Request	
EPA: Environmental Programs and Management; Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901), Waste Management							
FY Appropriation	\$59,769,000*	\$70,465,000*	\$75,810,000*	Not specified in appropriation*		\$90,634,000	Per President's FY2024 request
EPA: Environmental Programs and Management (EPM); Resource Conservation & Recovery Act, Waste Minimization, Recycling							
FY Appropriation	\$9,982,000*	\$12,603,000*	\$10,252,000*	Not specified in appropriation*		\$12,668,000*	Per President's FY2024 request
Appropriation Note:	*Included under FY2021 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*Included under FY2022 EPM appropriation of \$2,988,189,000	*Included under FY2023 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*included under FY2024 EPM appropriation of \$3,178,028,000		*Include under FY2025 \$3,200,000,000 approp for EPM	
EPA: Science and Technology; Clean Air and Climate; Federal Vehicle and Fuel Standards and Certification							
FY Appropriation	\$87,233,000*	\$101,348,000*	\$117,341,000*	Not specified in appropriation*		\$179,617,000*	Per President's FY2024 request
Appropriation Note:	*Included under FY2021 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*Included under FY2022 EPM appropriation of \$2,988,189,000	*Included under FY2023 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*included under FY2024 EPM appropriation of \$3,178,028,000		*Include under FY2025 \$3,200,000,000 approp for EPM	
EPA: State and Tribal Assistance Grants; Pollution Prevention Program							
FY Appropriation	\$5,022,000*	\$4,630,000*	\$4,973,000*	Not specified in appropriation*		\$5,775,000*	Per President's FY2024 request



Account / Program:	FY 2021 Appropriation	FY 2022 Appropriation	FY 2023 Appropriation	FY 2024 Appropriation	President's FY 2025 Budget	AFCC's FY 2025 Request	
Appropriation Note:	*Included under FY2021 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*Included under FY2022 EPM appropriation of \$2,988,189,000	*Included under FY2023 EPM appropriation of \$3,266,330,000	*included under FY2024 EPM appropriation of \$3,178,028,000		*Include under FY2025 \$3,200,000,000 approp for EPM	

Including:

■ Pollution Prevention Program, Multi-Media and Single Media Pollution, Control, and Abatement Grants							
FY Appropriation	\$212,284,000	\$225,304,000	\$237,000,000	\$1,106,333,000		\$1,100,000,000	
■ Pollution Prevention Program, Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants (per Title VII, Subsection G, Energy Policy Act of 2005)							
FY Appropriation	\$87,360,000	\$90,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$90,000,000		\$100,000,000	
■ Pollution Prevention Program, Smoke Preparedness Grants (per section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act) See Rational / Explanation (3) below							
FY Appropriation	N/A	\$4,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000		(3) Increase to \$15,000,000	

EPA: Clean Air Act; Forest Residuals | see Rational / Explanations (3) below

See the December 9, 2023 article in Biofuels Digest, [“Fire! Open Letter to US Treasury, Energy Secretaries on addressing the threat of forest fire via the bioeconomy”](#)

and [AFCC's December 6, 2023 industry letter to the US Treasury, Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, EPA Administrator, and Senior Advisory to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation.](#)

EPA: Modernization of GHG Modeling Studies Used in the Renewable Fuel Standard | See Rational / Explanation (4) below



Rationale / Explanation (1)

(1) For Departmental Operations (DOI) and Environmental Programs and Management (EPA), AFCC is proposing that legislative language be Inserted after *Administrative Provisions* (see page 320, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, P.L. 117-328) for the Department of the Interior and added as a new paragraph (4) to *Environmental Programs and Management* (see page 333, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, P.L. 117-328) for the Environmental Protection Agency to provide greater access to, flexibility in, and opportunities for securing funding through unsolicited proposals (46 FAR 15.6) so that meritorious proposals that can provide benefit to the Nation do not become lost opportunities because they do not fit current or upcoming USDA funding opportunities.

See AFCC's FY2025 Appropriations Request – I&E #1, which is described in a separate request. AFCC's I&E #1 request can be viewed and downloaded from AFCC's FY2025 Appropriations Request webpage by [clicking here](#) for DOI and [clicking here](#) for EPA.

Rationale / Explanation (2)

(2) For Department-wide Programs, Wildland Fire Management, AFCC is proposing a FY2025 appropriation of \$1,213,471,000 which is an increase of \$100,000,000 over the FY2024 appropriation, and reflects the escalating expense of fighting wildfires, not to mention the escalating costs of lost habitats, forest resources, property, productivity, even entire communities, and lives.

Of this amount, AFCC is proposing that:

- \$250,000,000, an increase of \$35,550 over the FY2024 appropriation, be dedicated to *Fuels Management Activities* and
- \$50,000,000, consistent with prior year funding levels, be authorized for interdepartmental transfers between the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to facilitate and expedite wildfire management programs between the two agencies.

Removing decayed and diseased forest residuals for use as feedstock for value-added products in the production of renewable chemicals, biobased products, advanced biofuels, cellulosic biofuels, and sustainable aviation fuels would alleviate the buildup of residual forest waste and mitigate the damage and costs of future wildfires.

With the proper incentives, private sector companies would be able to remove forest residuals AT NO OR MINIMAL COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.



This is because the cost of removal and transport to a facility where the forest residuals can be turned into an asset, rather than remaining in the forest as a wildfire liability, would be offset by the revenues generated by the sale of the value-added products.

However, a significant obstacle stands in the way: there currently is no incentive or practical way for private sector companies to do this due to the way in which “renewable biomass” is defined and, thus, excluded from qualifying for Renewable Identification Number (RINs) in Subtitle A, Sec. 201, Paragraph (I) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140. RINs are credits that are used as the “currency” of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) program established by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The result of this exclusion is that, even if Forest Service personnel remove woody material from national forests and make it available to private companies, the cost for private sector companies to pick up, transport, and convert it into value-added products is economically infeasible.

The definition of “renewable biomass” in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 also has blocked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from fulfilling its mandate, as part of a joint mandate with the Departments of Agriculture and Energy, as set forth in **“Policies Relating to Biomass Energy”** in Title IV (and Title VII) General Provisions, in Secs. 428, 431, 432, and 439 of the FY2018-FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Acts (see page 622, Sec. 431, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2024, H.R. 4366).

The Departments of Agriculture and Energy have fulfilled their mandate. The EPA has not. Because the EPA has not done so, the policies set forth in “Policies Relating to Biomass Energy” in the FY2018-FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Acts have been unable to move forward.

These policies include:

- Establishing clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass, the removal of which will reduce the hazards of wildfires, thus, protecting forest diversity, wildlife habitats, private property, and smoke emissions affecting public health
- Ensuring coordination and consistency across all federal departments and agencies relating to forest bioenergy, of which wildfire management is an integral part
- Facilitating responsible forest management
- Encouraging forest management to improve forest health
- Encouraging private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain so the removal of wildfire-causing forest residuals is carried out without cost to the federal government
- Recognizing biomass as a renewable energy source – which represents significant economic and environmental value to the Nation by replacing fossil-based fuels, power, and consumer products with alternative fuels, renewable chemicals, and



biobased products – “provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use.”

The sustainable forest management practices as mandated in **“Policies Relating to Biomass Energy,”** employed by the Department of the Interior and Forest Service, will be required to manage the removal forest residuals and deliver them to central locations for chipping.

With the proper incentives to make the use of these materials economically attractive for private sector companies, the chipped residuals would be delivered to or picked up by private sector companies as feedstocks to produce value-added products such renewable chemicals, biofuels, and biobased products.

Rationale / Explanation (3)

(3) For Environmental Programs and Management, AFCC is proposing that of the amounts appropriated under *Environmental Programs and Management* funds may be used to implement the mandate in **“Policies Relating to Biomass Energy,”** as cited above, which the EPA has failed to do despite the enactment of the mandate in FY2017, and its inclusion in every subsequent Consolidated Appropriations Act, including the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (Sec. 431, page 622).

AFCC proposes that these funds be used by the EPA to take tangible steps toward implementing the mandate in **“Policies Relating to Biomass Energy”** and , in parallel, take steps to mitigate the increased occurrences of wildfires and the damage and destruction caused by these wildfires.

The definition of “renewable biomass” in Subtitle A, Sec. 201, Paragraph (I), Subparagraph (v) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140 allows biomass to be removed “from the immediate vicinity of buildings and other areas regularly occupied by people, or public infrastructure, at risk of wildfire.”

Renewable biomass obtained in this manner can be used to produce renewable fuel to replace or reduce the use of fossil fuel and qualify for RINs.

The term “immediate vicinity” has not been defined in statute.

However, the EPA has defined it as a distance – 200 feet – from a building, area regularly occupied by people, or public infrastructure. That determination was made by the EPA prior to the time that forest resources, wildlife, ecologically fragile areas, buildings (and entire towns), and lives were being destroyed due to catastrophic wildfires, the incidence of which has been increasing every year and is projected to continue increasing every year ahead.



It also makes it impractical, and economically infeasible, for private sector companies to use the biomass to make value-added products.

AFCC and its member companies are proposing that “immediate vicinity” be defined, not by a number of feet, which is meaningless and inadequate when a wind-driven wildfire is approaching, but by areas at moderate, high, and very high risk of wildfire, as defined by the U.S. Forest Service on its GIS-based wildfire hazard maps, which would allow biomass removed from these areas to qualify for RINs and, thus, make this category useable.

This would make the category administratively and practically implementable and would more accurately reflect Congressional intent to address wildfire risk.

Moreover, it is abundantly clear to AFCC and AFCC’s member company producers that any feedstock removed from wildfire areas or fuel hazard areas that are designated as moderate, high, or very high, and associated risk of catastrophic wildfire on maps is considered in and of itself satisfaction of the immediate vicinity requirement. That is, there is no need for an additional (mandated) distance requirement for feedstock (to infrastructure/people) if the feedstock comes from the designated areas on the maps, because fire behavior data has indicated that such restrictive definitions are inaccurate and need to be viewed in the context of forest fuel hazards.

AFCC also is proposing that a definition be added describing the woody plant materials that exacerbate wildfire risk and are priorities for removal to reduce this risk, for which it proposes to describe as “forest residuals.”

AFCC also is proposing that “infrastructure” be defined to include roads, airports, ports, railways, energy power lines, utilities which are part of facilities, systems, and structures on public land, including Indian Tribal land, that are occupied, regularly used, or available for use by the public, including recreation areas, cultural and historical sites, monuments, trails, roads, bridges, canals, reservoirs, sewers, communication towers, and utilities, that provide communication, transportation, or other public services.

For further information on this issue and the actions the AFCC and its member companies have taken, see:

- The December 9, 2023 article in Biofuels Digest, [*“Fire! Open Letter to US Treasury, Energy Secretaries on addressing the threat of forest fire via the bioeconomy”*](#)
- [*AFCC’s December 6, 2023 industry letter to the US Treasury, Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, EPA Administrator, and Senior Advisory to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation.*](#)



The legislative language proposed below from AFCC and its 150+ member companies will address this issue.

Proposed Legislative Language for (3)

AFCC proposes that of the amounts appropriated under *Environmental Programs and Management* (see Sec. 431, page 622, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2024, H.R. 4366) may be used to implement the “**Policies Relating to Biomass Energy**” mandate and reduce the incidence and increased occurrences of wildfires.

AFCC proposes that the legislative language indicated below in blue text be added as a new paragraph (4) *Environmental Programs and Management* as follows.

Strike the period at the end of Paragraph (3) after “... EPA inventory such lands)” and replace with a semi-colon (see page 526 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2024, H.R. 4366), and the following language:

(4) That, from the amounts provided herein, funds may be used by the Administrator who shall implement the necessary policies and carry out the necessary steps related to reducing the risk and loss of forest resources, wildlife, and property due to catastrophic wildfires by carrying out the mandate in the ‘Policies Related to Biomass Energy’ in the Consolidation Appropriations Acts of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, including Section 431 of the Consolidated Appropriation Ac of 2024, and within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, publish a notice in the Federal Register that states that ‘immediate vicinity’ in Subtitle A, Sec. 201, Paragraph (I), Subparagraph (v) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140, shall be defined henceforth as ‘in the immediate vicinity or close proximity to a wildfire hazard area, as defined by the U.S. Forest Service on its wildfire hazard maps’: *Provided*, That the Administrator shall, within 90 days of this Act, published a notice in the Federal Register providing a definition of the plant materials that cause the greatest wildfire risk, which the Administrator shall define as ‘forest residuals,’ the definition of such shall state that ‘the term ‘forest residuals’ means diseased, dying, and insect-infested trees and underbrush, fallen trees, residual materials from ecological restoration activities, and secondary, residual materials generated from timber sales, pre-commercial thinning operations, and forest products manufacturing, including, but not limited to, small diameter branches and tree tops discarded by timber operations, slash piles, sawdust, wood chips, shavings, bark, sander dust, and trimmings, as well as materials from the control of hazardous fuels in the immediate vicinity of buildings and other infrastructure at risk of wildfires, with ‘immediate vicinity’ defined as being located within a or close



proximity to a `designated wildfire or fuel hazard area with a moderate, high, or very high risk of catastrophic wildfires, as shown on U.S. Forest Service wildfire hazard maps, regardless of whether the source of said residuals is derived from Federal or non-Federal lands, which may be used in the same ways as `renewable biomass` to produce renewable fuels and renewable products and shall qualify for State and Federal incentives in the same manner as products produced from renewable biomass, in accordance with the `Policies Relating to Biomass Energy` in the Consolidated Appropriations Acts of fiscal years 2017 through 2024”: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall, within 90 days of this Act, include in the notice in the Federal Register a definition of `infrastructure,` the definition of such shall state that `the term `infrastructure` means roads, airports, ports, railways, energy power lines, utilities which are part of facilities, systems, and structures on public land, including Indian Tribal land, that are occupied, regularly used, or available for use by the public, including recreation areas, cultural and historical sites, monuments, trails, roads, bridges, canals, reservoirs, sewers, communication towers, and utilities, that provide communication, transportation, or other public services.

Rationale / Explanation (4)

(4) The EPA modernized the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation Model (GREET) in 2023 which has several significant flaws. Bipartisan bills have been introduced in both chambers, the *Adopt GREET Act*, [S. 3055](#) and [H.R. 6152](#), to overcome these flaws, which AFCC strongly support.

The methodology that the EPA has adopted for greenhouse gas (GHG) modeling is different from the modeling used by other Federal agencies and the laboratories that provide life cycle analysis (LCA) and GHG modeling to U.S. companies.

This has the potential to cause significant confusion between federal agencies in measuring GHG emissions and companies seeking to take advantage of Federal grants and loan guarantees to advance their projects.

For this reason, language from the House and Senate bills, [S. 3055](#) and [H.R. 6152](#), need to be incorporated into the FY2025 I&E appropriation.

These bills would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update its greenhouse gas (GHG) modeling for ethanol and biodiesel. Specifically, the bills would require EPA to adopt either the Argonne National Lab’s Greenhouse Gas and Regulated Emissions and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) Model or the 2019 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) methodology.



EPA would then be required to update its modeling every five years or report to Congress to affirm its modeling is current or otherwise explain why no updates were made. This would ensure that accurate carbon intensity values are assigned to ethanol and biodiesel production.

The updates recognize that significant emissions reductions have taken place at the farm level and support existing farmer-led efforts to adopt agricultural practices that benefit soil health and water quality while also reducing GHG emissions, such as precision agriculture, no-till, and smart farming.

These emission reductions are incorporated into the new GREET model and are an important factor for determining the carbon of ethanol production.

Other factors that affect lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments are estimates and ranges of Land Use Changes (LUC), farming, co-product credit, fuel production, fuel and feedstock transport, tailpipe, and denaturant emissions.

The language proposed below by AFCC for inclusion in the I&E appropriations will ensure that the EPA administrator is directed to use the most recent GREET model. The language proposed by AFCC also will tie in with and support, [S. 3055](#) and [H.R. 6152](#), the *Adopt GREET Act*.”

Proposed Legislative Language for (3)

AFCC proposes that the legislative language indicated below in **blue text** be added at the end of *Environmental Programs and Management* (see page 333, Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2023, P.L. 117-328), following the addition proposed by AFCC under (3) above.

“Provided further, That the Administrator shall update and adopt the most recent modeling for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for corn-based ethanol, biodiesel, and all other purposes using modernized methods as set forth in the most recent Argonne National Laboratory’s Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions and Energy use in Transportation, commonly referred to as the GREET modeling tool, to improve the way in which these assessments are conducted, ensure greater accuracy, and provide consistency across all Federal agencies so that more projects can advance that produce ethanol, biofuels, and other transportation fuels and power production technologies that reduce the Nation’s reliance on fossil fuels. ”