



Legislative Session Ends without Passage of Biodiesel Bill

DES MOINES, Iowa – The legislature adjourned today without taking action on the Biodiesel Fuel Quality Standard (SF464). As a result, Iowans will miss out on an opportunity to create green jobs, lessen the state's dependence on foreign oil, and position Iowa as a major player in meeting federal goals for renewable fuels. The legislation, which passed the State Senate last year with bipartisan support, would have ensured that Iowa's diesel supply contain at least 5 percent biodiesel (B5).

Randy Olson, executive director of the Iowa Biodiesel Board, issued this statement:

"Of course we are disappointed that the Iowa House of Representatives did not take a vote on the B5 bill, but at the same time we are grateful to the many legislators who took a stand for biodiesel. In particular, legislators like Sen. Jack Kibbie and Reps. Sharon Steckman and Marcie Frevert showed conviction in standing up for Iowa's energy future in the face of powerful opposition. That gives us hope.

"We were also encouraged to learn from a survey that a majority of Iowa voters said they supported this legislation, and that nearly 4 out of 5 said they would use biodiesel if given the chance. That shows that Iowans support this green fuel and that there is promise for it in our state.

"At the same time, our biodiesel industry is suffering, and it is to the detriment not just of the producers themselves, but to the entire state. Losing these jobs and economic activity will cost the state billions of dollars in the years ahead without strong support for biodiesel. Other states are likely to pass us by and become the economic renewable energy leaders. Iowa leaders and citizens must decide if a thriving biodiesel industry is something they want, or if they are willing to let it die on the vine as other states take the business away from us.

"We will shift our focus now to other efforts that have the potential to move biodiesel in the state, such as educating petroleum marketers about programs in place that they can take advantage of by selling biodiesel. With the positive feelings Iowans have toward biodiesel, and the many experienced high-quality biodiesel producers in our state, we're hopeful that there will be new opportunities for biodiesel in the state."

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For more about the Iowa Biodiesel Board, visit www.iowabiodiesel.org.