

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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BOARD ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BOARD ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

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## NRC COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF INCREASING BIOFUELS PRODUCTION

### *SOLICITING WRITTEN INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC*

The National Research Council has appointed the Committee on Economic and Environmental Impacts of Increasing Biofuels Production to conduct a study of current and projected biofuel production, use and impacts. The study will include an economic analysis of increased biofuel production to identify current and projected impacts of biofuels on supply and demand for key commodities affected by the biofuels market. Impacts considered will include changes in the prices and availability of animal feed, food, renewable and petroleum-based fuels, and forest products. Current and projected biofuels production, significant trends for feedstock sources, technology developments, and other factors that will affect biofuels production will be discussed. Particular focus will be given to the impact of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and biofuel tax and tariff policies. The study will also analyze the impact of current and projected future levels of biofuels production and use on the environment. The study will identify barriers to achieving the RFS requirements, and will evaluate policy options, including those available under current law, to alleviate potential adverse impacts of RFS on the price and availability of animal feedstocks and food, and on regional agricultural and silvicultural capability. The study is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The committee is soliciting input relevant to its statement of task from the public. Specifically, the committee would appreciate your input on the following questions.

- What are the costs and disruptive effects on the economy and environment of meeting the RFS mandate by 2022?
- What are your top 3 concerns regarding possible consequences of meeting the RFS mandate?
- Under what circumstances could the RFS mandate be met without causing these concerns?
- In your view, what are the potential beneficial impacts of the RFS mandate in addition to improving energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
- Which groups would gain or lose most from meeting the RFS mandate?
- What are the most important barriers to meeting the RFS mandate?
- If you are including any data or statistics, please provide a source for the information.

To facilitate the committee's work, it will be most useful if you could **submit your written comments by February 24, 2010**. In your written input, please identify yourself and your affiliation or the group that you are representing.

Please e-mail your written comments to Kara Laney ([klaney@nas.edu](mailto:klaney@nas.edu)) or Evonne Tang ([etang@nas.edu](mailto:etang@nas.edu)) or mail them to The National Academies, BANR MS 686, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Please note that any written input submitted to the committee will be placed in the study's Public Access File as required by Section 15 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The committee will also follow-up on this solicitation of input by inviting stakeholders' groups to address some of the committee's questions and to discuss the stakeholders' specific concerns in a public meeting on May 3, 2010. Details on the committee's public meetings will be posted at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49174> when they are available.

### **Committee Roster**

Lester B. Lave, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University  
Ingrid C. Burke, Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming  
Timothy J. Conside, Department of Economics and Finance, University of Wyoming  
Virginia H. Dale, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Stephen R. Kaffka, Department of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis  
Kirk C. Klasing, Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis  
John A. Miranowski, Department of Economics, Iowa State University  
Aristides A. N. Patrinos, Synthetic Genomics Inc.  
David Schweikhardt, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University  
Jerald L. Schnoor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Iowa  
Brent L. Sohngen, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Ohio State University  
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