



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Bioenergy and Agriculture Groups Urge Congress to Oppose H.R 2, House Farm Bill**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The American Biogas Council (ABC) in conjunction with the Agriculture Energy Coalition (AgEC) and the Biomass Power Association (BPA) released the following statement on H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, also known as the Farm Bill. Over the past two years, these organizations have been actively working to advance the Farm Bill, legislation that supports the sustainable use of biomass and agricultural residues to produce different forms of energy. The legislation will come before the full House of Representatives this week. Many groups have already expressed opposition to the bill as it makes significant changes to programs that affect the dairy industry and the food stamps program. Among the issues for these pro-agriculture and renewable energy groups is the fact that the bill, unfortunately, also transforms programs that addressing renewable energy and biofuels such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), the Biorefinery Assistance Program, or the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. In addition, the bill eliminates the Energy Title and merges it with Rural Development, while also removing mandatory funding for the important programs contained within the Energy Title. To our organizations, these changes are unacceptable and we urge Congress to oppose H.R. 2 in its current form.

“The US could build 14,000 new anaerobic digesters which would catalyze at least \$40 billion in capital deployment and create 335,000 construction jobs and 23,000 permanent jobs to operate the biogas systems. Over half of these opportunities exist on or near farms, said Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the ABC. “The fact that H.R. 2 eliminates the Energy Title and contains no mandatory funding for the programs that encourage this economic activity is unacceptable and short sighted. And when you recognize that the Energy Title programs only represent 1% of the total cost of the Farm Bill their elimination is illogical. H.R. 2 must be opposed until a robustly funded separate energy title with mandatory funding is included.”

Energy Title-funded programs like the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) and the Biorefinery Assistance Program help deploy digesters in rural areas and enable farmers to turn waste into renewable energy and fuel. They usually help farmers both reduce the cost of managing on-farm material and generate new revenue streams which leads to better sustainability and resiliency of our agriculture industry. The rural economy has suffered over the past few years and the House’s Farm Bill as it exists today, would diminish programs that should instead be strengthened to help boost on farm economies.

Lloyd Ritter of the AgEC said, “The farm bill’s energy and sustainability programs are central to good agricultural policy. They enhance farm income, create jobs and manufacturing opportunities across rural America. Unfortunately the House bill comes up short and the Coalition cannot support it without a strong energy title.”

“Declining to fund the Biomass Crop Assistance Program in the 2018 Farm Bill is an opportunity wasted,” said Carrie Annand, BPA Executive Director. “Out West, there is a forest crisis with hundreds of millions of dead and dying trees. BCAP can help alleviate this problem by providing funding for the removal of dead trees and transportation to biomass plants where they can be used for fuel. Active forest management through programs like BCAP, by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, can help save money, forests and lives.”

### **About the Agriculture Energy Coalition**

The Agriculture Energy Coalition is a membership based coalition of interested organizations all committed to a strong bi-partisan energy title in the Farm Bill. The coalition believes that enlightened forward-thinking farm policy must invest meaningfully in the new energy economy, including renewable energy such as wind, solar, biomass to fuels, chemicals and power, geothermal, small hydro and energy efficiency. These industries will promote new job growth and economic opportunity in all regions of the country, lower carbon emissions and other environmental enhancements, and improve national energy security. <http://agenergycoalition.org/>

### **About the American Biogas Council**

The American Biogas Council is the only national trade association representing the entire biogas industry in the U.S. The ABC represents over 200 companies in all parts of the biogas supply chain who are dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas and digestate from organic waste. Find us online at [www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org](http://www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org), Twitter [@ambiogascouncil](https://twitter.com/ambiogascouncil), LinkedIn in the [American Biogas Council group](#) and on [YouTube](#).

### **About the Biomass Power Association**

The Biomass Power Association (BPA) is a non-profit trade association, dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of energy from organic material. Our 40 members operate in 22 states, supply more than 1 GW of renewable power and represent well over half the operating biomass power plant fleet across the country. Based in Portland, Maine with offices in Washington, DC, we represent the industry before Congress, various federal agencies, and before state legislatures, agencies and non-governmental organizations. BPA provides science and market-based analyses of a wide range of issues, from federal and state renewable policies to carbon emission accounting. <http://www.usabiomass.org>

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