



American Biogas Council Holds Congressional Fly-In
May 9-10, 2016 in Washington, DC



Biogas SURGED in Washington this month thanks to your fellow members, ABC Directors and especially our hard working lobbyist, Maureen, and her extended team. You should feel proud of how much the ABC has accomplished federally and how much awareness we, with you, have been able to create on Capitol Hill for the biogas industry. That said, it should come as no surprise that we all ALSO have a mountain of work ahead of us to increase that understanding about biogas systems and get more favorable biogas policies in place. Please remain poised to take advantage of the doors that are opening up for us and your business, be ready to respond to our requests for your action so we can speak with the loudest industry voice possible and don't forget to keep the district offices and your Members of Congress informed when you have groundbreakings and major project development victories. They need constant reminders of the benefits of biogas systems.

After an all day in-person Board Meeting, we had over 30 meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs and one with the head of USDA's NRCS program. On Capitol Hill, 10 of those meetings were with the Members themselves which was up from 2 last year and 4 in 2014--an indication of the power we have when you, ABC Members, come into town as a constituent and also the gaining recognition of the importance of biogas.

Each meeting was different, but most of them focused on the following requests (based on a mix of what Congress is acting on right now and ABC priorities):

- 5-year extension of the biogas-electricity [Sec. 45 PTC and 30% investment tax credit](#)
- Support of the [new 30% investment tax credit for biogas and nutrient recovery systems](#)

- Starting discussions about what to put in the 2018 Farm Bill (yes, it is time to talk about that now)
- Request that EPA [support the renewable electricity pathway in the Renewable Fuel Standard](#), which would boost RIN volume and value for all types of biogas-vehicle fuel projects.

In addition, we met with USDA leadership in the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which oversees the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Rural biogas systems can apply for EQIP funding to apply to conventional application of biogas system practices and equipment which promote conservation. Yet few biogas systems have been successful in actually extracting funding from the state-administered programs. So ABC is asking for a \$20 million carve out (no new spending) at the federal level to create better access for you to this well-funded program and help make digesters more competitive.

While there's much for us to do to follow-up on all these meetings, looking ahead, please make sure you join us at [REFOR16](#) this October for our annual conference, consider [sponsoring](#) and plan to join us next spring for the 2016 DC Fly-in!

Click [HERE](#) for photos of our week on Capitol Hill.

Sincerely,

Patrick, Maureen, Caroline, Justin and the rest of our Federal Affairs and ABC Team