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American Biogas Council Denounces EPA's Draft 2020 RFS Fuel Targets

July 9 - Washington, DC - The American Biogas Council (ABC) Executive Director, Patrick Serfass, issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of the 2020 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS):

"While we appreciate the EPA's timely release of the fuel targets which recognize the continued growth in the biogas and renewable natural gas (RNG) industry, these targets fall far short of volumes that would encourage greater development of the biogas industry and risk stifling growth, investment and American jobs.

"Specifically, the proposed 2020 RVO misses the mark in three ways: it does not come close to accounting for the full growth the biogas and RNG industry is experiencing today; it does not reallocate any of the hundreds of millions of gallons that have been eliminated by the flagrant and frequent issuance of hardship waivers; and once again, the RVO misses accounting for the gallons associated with the activation of the renewable electricity pathway that was approved in 2014. In all, the cellulosic biofuel category alone should be at least 1 billion gallons greater than the 540 million gallons proposed—at least 100 million gallons for the biogas to renewable natural gas projects to be developed and come online in 2020, 972 million gallons for the renewable electricity pathway, based on data from the Energy Information Administration and EPA's own conversion factors, and an unspecified amount of additional gallons to counterbalance the issuance of small refinery exemptions or hardship waivers.

"For our sector of the renewable fuels industry, it is extremely disheartening to see the EPA and Trump Administration continue to take steps that hurt the growth and investment of our homegrown biogas and RNG companies. These draft targets reveal the Administration's effort to undermine the value of the Renewable Fuel Standard which could bolster the U.S. farming industry at a time when support is needed most. Low commodity prices and the Administration's trade wars are already hurting rural economies across the country. The continued abuse of the RFS must stop.

"When the final targets are released this fall, they need to be at least 1 billion gallons larger, recognizing the true growth of the biogas industry, the gallons created by utilization of the renewable electricity pathway, and the gallons lost by the frequent and often indiscriminate granting of small refinery exemptions and hardship waivers."

About the American Biogas Council

The American Biogas Council is the only national trade association representing the entire biogas industry in the U.S. We represent over 200 companies in all parts of the biogas supply chain who are dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas from organic waste. Biogas systems protect our air, water and soil by recycling organic material, like food waste and manure, into renewable energy and soil products. Learn more online at www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org, Twitter @ambiogascouncil, LinkedIn and on YouTube