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Renewable Fuel Mandates Bolster Canada's Transition to a Low Carbon Future

OTTAWA – Renewable Industries Canada (RICanada) welcomes the release of a new and timely Conference Board of Canada report, *Renewable Fuel Standards Within a Low-Carbon Fuel Strategy*.

According to the report, maintaining renewable fuel mandates will be key to any effective climate policy that seeks transportation emission reductions in the near and longer term. It also reinforces that the environmental benefits of blending renewable fuels, like ethanol and biodiesel, are clear and well documented.

For instance, ethanol's national 5 per cent mandated content in gasoline helps reduce GHG emissions by 4.2 million tonnes annually, equivalent to 1 million cars being removed from Canada's roads each year. Ethanol is the only low-carbon, renewable fuel alternative for gasoline available at commercial scale, meaning that retaining blend mandates will help ensure the availability of low-carbon octane to the Canadian fuels market.

Renewable Fuel Standards Within a Low-Carbon Fuel Strategy finds that "a clean fuel standard that fails to maintain, or expand, current blend mandates for renewable fuels is not recommended". Moreover, the report concludes that clean fuels targets envisioned as part of a broader Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) are almost certainly unattainable without mid- to high-level blending of renewables into the fuel stream. As the Conference Board notes, blend mandates have also provided retail market access to low-carbon fuels for consumers, and a stable investment environment for the renewable fuels industry.

Quotes

Jim Grey, Chair, Renewable Industries Canada

"As the Conference Board's research clearly indicates, maintaining and building on blend mandates is critical to the success of Canada's climate change agenda. The transportation sector is the single largest source of GHG emissions in Canada and is projected to grow with population and GDP growth. Maintaining volumetric requirements for renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel will be an integral part of Canada's transition to a low carbon future."

Dr. Mark Jaccard, Professor of Sustainable Energy Economics, Simon Fraser University

"Governments have yet to achieve the levels of carbon pricing needed to transition the transportation sector away from fossil fuels. Until such time, renewable fuel standards should not be weakened and may need to see their stringency increased, especially if flexible policies like the low carbon fuel standard are not quickly implemented and tightened."

Learn More

A recorded webinar on this topic presented by environmental and climate experts Dr. Mark Jaccard, renowned professor and author, and Gord Miller, ecologist, environmental policy analyst and former Environment Commissioner of Ontario, is available from the Conference Board's e-Library.

About RICanada

RICanada is the principal stakeholder representing Canadian producers of clean-burning renewable fuels like ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel. This is an industry that currently generates more than \$3.5 billion in economic benefits per year while making significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

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For more information

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