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Fuel Retailers, Biodiesel Producers and Home Heating Industry Support Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit Legislation

ALEXANDRIA, VA — NATSO, the national association representing America's travel plazas and truck stops, SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers, the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), the National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI) and Sustainable Advanced Biofuel Refiners (SABR) today applauded Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) for introducing the "Consumer Relief and Opportunities for Producers Act" (S. 3297) that would temporarily reinstate the \$1 per gallon '40A' Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit.

The CROP Act (S. 3297) would reinstate the Biodiesel Tax Credit for six months through May 31, 2026, at the blender level. Taxpayers would be able to choose between claiming the Biodiesel Tax Credit or the '45Z' Clean Fuel Production Credit.

"We commend Senator Blackburn for her commitment to strengthening America's energy markets through a reinstatement of the Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit," said NATSO President and CEO Max McBrayer. "Renewing the Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit would help bring down the price of diesel in many markets throughout the United States, which would help American consumers navigate the affordability challenges that many of them are currently experiencing."

"Reinstating the Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit is the right decision for both fuel retailers, trucking companies, and the American people," McBrayer said.

"We appreciate Senator Blackburn for her leadership in restoring the longstanding Section '40A' Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit, which has a proven track record of increasing biofuel production and lowering fuel prices at the pump," said Matt Durand, Deputy General Counsel for NACS. "'40A' worked because it was straightforward and transparent. Fuel retailers have been flying blind without it, and the market is in distress amid such largescale uncertainty."

"The expiration of the Biodiesel Tax Credit has imposed upward pressure on retail diesel prices and meaningfully hurt the American farm economy," said Matt Ports, President of Ports Petroleum and Chairman of SIGMA's Board of Directors. "SIGMA is grateful for Senator Blackburn's leadership in getting this important tax credit extended."

Despite being first enacted more than three years ago, the industry continues to await proposed regulations from Treasury implementing the '45Z' biofuel production credit. It is uncertain what the incentive for biodiesel will be under '45Z,' but it will inevitably be much less than \$1 per gallon, and likely do little to turn around the biodiesel industry's ongoing decline.

The '45Z' credit has not facilitated sufficiently favorable blending economics to prompt fuel retailers to purchase more biofuels. After more than three years, '45Z's' complexity has created delays,

revisions, and uncertainty. The biodiesel industry and American consumers are paying the price. It remains uncertain when the Trump Administration will propose rules around '45Z,' when those rules will be finalized, and whether the ultimate result will be favorable to the biodiesel industry.

When it was in place, the Biodiesel Tax Credit enabled the biodiesel industry to grow from approximately 100 million gallons in 2005 to more than 2 billion gallons in 2024. Since the '40A' credit expired at the end of 2024, however, the biodiesel industry has been on life support. In 2025, biodiesel consumption fell dramatically to 960 million gallons through the end of October. The CROP Act is intended to throw that sector a lifeboat as it awaits further clarification around '45Z.'

"SABR applauds Sen. Blackburn for her leadership in introducing the BTC extension in the Senate," said SABR CEO Joe Jobe. "If passed by Congress, this policy would provide desperately needed relief to the biodiesel industry and all of the other industries that biodiesel benefits in the value chain. This includes farmers who are experiencing an economic crisis in agriculture right now."

"Reliable and affordable supplies of biodiesel and renewable diesel are a top priority for America's heating oil dealers, who serve nearly 5 million homes across the country. NEFI is therefore proud to endorse the Consumer Relief and Opportunities for Producers Act," said NEFI President and CEO Jim Collura. "Enactment of this bill would support our mostly small family businesses transition to renewable liquid heating fuels, which offer a lower cost and more immediate solution to reduce building emissions and contribute to regional energy security and diversity."

Reinstating the Biodiesel Blenders' Tax Credit would incentivize fuel retailers nationwide to buy and blend more gallons of biodiesel, enabling fuel retailers to offer more competitively priced diesel fuel. When more than 70 percent of all American goods move by truck, this would help fight inflation, support affordability for American consumers, and bolster America's energy markets and the economy.

The CROP Act was cosponsored by Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC). "Senator Tillis has long been a champion for the truck stop and travel center industry, and we are grateful for his ongoing support," NATSO's McBrayer said.

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About NATSO, SIGMA, NACS, NEFI and SABR

<u>NATSO</u> is the trade association representing America's travel center and truck stop industry. Founded in 1960, NATSO represents the industry on legislative and regulatory matters; serves as the official source of information on the diverse travel center, truck stop and off-highway fuel retail industries; provides education to its members; conducts an annual convention and trade show; and supports efforts to generally improve the business climate in which its members operate. For more information visit NATSO.com. Follow NATSO on <u>Facebook; Instagram; LinkedIn;</u> and <u>X</u>. Contact: <u>Tiffany Wlazlowski</u> Neuman, Vice President, Public Affairs. 202-365-9459

<u>SIGMA</u> is the national trade association representing the most successful, progressive, and innovative fuel marketers and chain retailers in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1958 as the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America (SIGMA), SIGMA has become a fixture in the motor fuel marketing industry. Representing a diverse membership of approximately 250 independent chain retailers and marketers of motor fuel, the association serves to further the interests of both the branded and unbranded segment of the industry while providing information and services to members. For more

information visit SIGMA.org.

<u>NACS</u> For more than 60 years, NACS has been recognized as the premiere association for convenience and fuel retailers. NACS has more than 1,000 retail member companies that cumulatively represent more than 200,000 stores in 50-plus countries, including 90,000 stores in the United States alone. The U.S. convenience store industry, with more than 152,000 stores nationwide selling fuel, food and merchandise, conducts 160 million transactions daily and had sales of \$837 billion in 2024. For more information, visit <u>convenience.org</u>. Follow NACS on <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

National Energy & Fuels Institute is a is a leading voice for heating fuel dealers and home comfort providers across America, promoting the interests of these mostly small, family-owned businesses in the halls of government, including the U.S. Congress and federal agencies. Our government affairs and advocacy programs focus on a range of critical issues affecting these businesses and the communities they serve.

<u>Sustainable Advanced Biofuel Refiners (SABR)</u> is a coalition of stakeholders that have invested in building out America's first advanced biofuel—biodiesel. Biodiesel is the most cost-effective means to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, providing numerous economic, environmental, and energy security benefits. SABR includes stakeholders from every link in the value chain from feedstock growers to biodiesel producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers, as well as infrastructure and products and services suppliers.