

Highlights from the 2023 Congressional Tours

New Orleans:

The 2023 New Orleans Clean Fuels Congressional Tour illustrated the entire value chain of biodiesel and renewable diesel production, from feedstock to fuel distribution and use. The stops included the Bunge-Chevron Ag Renewables crush facility in Destrehan; the IMTT Terminal in St. Rose; the Diamond Green refinery in Norco; and a boat tour of the area hosted by ARTCO to view grain handling and distribution operations. Andy Brown of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation joined the tour along with sponsors ADM,



AGP, Chevron REG, Darling Ingredients, and Western Iowa Energy.

Participants on the tour included 14 staff from the House and Senate and one staffer each from EPA and USDA's HBIIP program. The congressional staffers represented key offices, including Rep. Glen GT Thompson, chair of the House Ag Committee; Rep. Michelle Fischbach on Ways & Means; and multiple members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. Several staff represented states and offices – such as Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana and Rep. Byron Donalds of Florida – that are showing new interest in the industry.

Capital Region:

The 2023 Capitol Region Sustainability and Clean Fuels Tour highlighted economic and environmental impacts of biodiesel, renewable diesel, and sustainable feedstocks in the nation's capital and surrounding area as well as the changing feedstock markets. The tour stops included a Darling

Ingredients used cooking oil recycling facility and a local soybean farm. Additional speakers included Antoine Thompson of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Council, who discussed environmental justice issues; Tim Fitzgerald, Fleet Director, DC Department of Public Works. and Richard Hilmer, Division Chief, Prince George's County Fleet Management; Danielle Bauer Farace, of the Maryland, Delaware and Atlantic Soybean Boards/Councils; and Colin Huwyler, CEO of Optimus Technologies.

Eleven congressional staff joined the tour, including staff from members on the Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and House Agriculture Committees; as well as the Senate Agriculture and Environment, Public Works, and Energy and Natural Resources Committees.



California:

The 2023 California Congressional Tour presented a thorough overview of the industry, from fuel production to end use. Tour stops included World Energy in Paramount; Amber Resources in Long Beach; and the Port of Long Beach. Additional speakers included Floyd Vergara and representatives of

sponsors AGP, Chevron REG, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Innovative Ag Services, Minnesota Soybean Processors, and Western Iowa Energy.

Many of the tour guests participated in previous Foundation tours, using this opportunity to deepen their knowledge about the clean fuels industry and its needs. The participants represented members and leaders of key congressional committees, including Agriculture, Appropriations, Energy and Commerce, and Ways & Means. There were participants from EPA, USDA's HBIIP Program, and NREL. There were staffers from offices that have been strong champions for years, such as Rep. Rosa DeLauro and Sen. Joni Ernst. There were also participants from new offices representing areas of the country – like Arizona, Delaware, and Florida – that are just beginning to see the benefits of the industry.



Outcomes included:

- Rep. Mike Flood, whose staffer Dean Evan joined the Louisiana tour, sponsored the SAF Accuracy Act.
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow, whose staffer joined the DC tour, co-sponsored the Senate version of the SAF Accuracy Act.
- Reps. Randy Feenstra – whose staffer joined DC – and Pete Stauber – whose staffer joined California – signed a letter to Treasury advocating GREET as the alternative model for calculating tax incentives.
- Rep. Michelle Fischbach, whose staffer joined Louisiana, and Feenstra joined a group of House Republicans in blocking repeal of the BTC extension in debt limit negotiations.
- Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, whose staffer joined in California, reached out to ask for support of a new bill.
- Many of the tour participants also joined the BioFry event in September to maintain the relationship and learn about next year's tours.

Overall attendee numbers (not double counting those who attended two tours):

- 25 House
- 8 Senate
- 1 EPA

- 1 USDA
- 1 NREL

Sites visited: 9