



## ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS®

The Independent Business Voice for the Environment

[www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org)

June 10, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the members of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), I am writing to urge you to oppose any efforts to weaken or repeal the application of Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to the Department of Defense (DOD). This critical section of law has enhanced DOD's energy security mission and provided the market certainty needed to spur innovation and production of advanced biofuels. Repealing Section 526 would undermine DOD's energy mission and harm the domestic advanced biofuel industry.

E2 is a non-partisan, national community of business leaders who promote strong environmental policy to grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who collectively have been involved in financing, creating or working in the early development of more than 1,100 companies, which have created over 500,000 jobs. Our members manage over \$90 billion in private equity capital that will flow over the next several years into new companies.

As the world's largest consumer of energy, the DOD has recognized the critical importance of reducing energy use and diversifying energy supplies throughout its operations. One of the top priorities is beginning a shift away from oil, toward domestic sources of sustainably produced advanced biofuels.

Section 526 has provided the legislative certainty needed to achieve this goal, allowing the private sector to work with DOD by guaranteeing the Department will serve as an early adopter and prime customer for these fuels. Without Section 526 there would be no clear signal on what type of fuels meet DOD's energy goals and private companies would have great difficulty in raising the capital needed to develop and produce these fuels at the scales necessary to ensure they are cost-competitive.

The Department has written in the past that repeal or exemption of Section 526 would harm its ability to meet its mission, stating "DOD opposes this provision [to defund Section 526] because the Department supports the goals and intent behind the current law. This exemption could further increase America's reliance on non-renewable fuels. Our dependence on those types of fuels degrades our national security, negatively impacts our economy, and harms our planet. This exemption would also send a negative signal to America's advanced biofuel industry and could result in adverse impacts to U.S. job creation, rural development efforts, and the export of world leading technology"

Repealing Section 526 will sidetrack the process already underway at DOD and simultaneously shatter any semblance of certainty in the commercial marketplace. Repeal would discourage innovation and could deprive the military of fuels that they are currently working to develop.

For these reasons, I hope you will support American innovation to meet the military's energy security mission by opposing any attempt to weaken or repeal Section 526.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lederer  
Co-Founder, Environmental Entrepreneurs

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