NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2018

Biogas Council Applauds Senate Passage of the Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.– Today, the American Biogas Council (ABC) applauded the recent passage of the Farm Bill by the Senate. The legislation passed on a vote of 86-11 and is the outcome of bipartisan efforts to craft policies that will help the on farm economy.

"Chairman Roberts (R-KS), Ranking Member Stabenow (D-MI) and their staff have worked together brilliantly over the past two years to craft legislation that will encourage a strong rural economy and biogas industry," said Patrick Serfass, Executive Director of the ABC. "We were especially pleased to see that the Senate version included an energy title with substantial mandatory funding. Our farming members utilize energy title programs to develop biogas systems on farms and in rural areas which not only create reliable renewable energy, but also manage manure, odor and recycle nutrients. These systems provide additional jobs, investment and new revenue streams for farmers.

"The ABC would also like to extend our gratitude to the many members of the Committee who have worked diligently in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that a Farm Bill is passed and signed into law this year."

The Senate version of the Farm Bill includes many items of importance to the ABC the foremost being a separate energy title and mandatory funding for its programs. The House version unfortunately eliminated the Energy Title and contained no mandatory funding. Senators Bennet and Whitehouse also added important provisions to the Senate bill that would require the Department of Energy to provide technical assistance to applicants to the USDA rural electrification loan program when establishing energy efficiency or renewable energy systems as well as the creation of an Interagency Biogas Opportunities Task Force to coordinate policies, programs, and research to accelerate biogas research and investment.

"We are hopeful that as the House and Senate move forward in the conference process, the final biparitisan, bicamerial Farm Bill shows the value of renewable energy in the on farm economy by containing an energy title with robust mandatory funding," said Serfass. "We look forward to working with the Congress to get this legislation passed and signed into law before the current authorization expires September 30, 2018."

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About the American Biogas Council
The American Biogas Council is the only national trade association representing the entire biogas industry in the U.S. The ABC represents over 200 companies in all parts of the biogas supply chain who are dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas and digestate from organic waste. Find us online at www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org, Twitter @ambiogascouncil, LinkedIn in the American Biogas Council group and on YouTube.