



July 10, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
 Chairman
 Senate Armed Services Committee
 228 Russell Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
 Ranking Member
 Senate Armed Services Committee
 228 Russell Office Building
 Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
 Chairman
 House Armed Services Committee
 2120 Rayburn Office Building
 Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
 Ranking Member
 House Armed Services Committee
 2116 Rayburn Office Building
 Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith:

As you work to craft final language for the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016, we urge the Conferees to protect Section 526 of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. This policy is integral to the Department of Defense’s (DOD) efforts to develop cheaper, cleaner, and secure fuels that are domestically produced.

Section 526 has been in place since 2007 and provides a framework for the military’s advanced biofuels efforts. The DOD strongly supports this provision, and the requirements of Section 526 have never prevented DOD from purchasing the fuels necessary to meet its current mission needs.

Commitment by the United States government, including DOD, to advanced biofuels has helped attract world-leading private sector investments of more than \$13.2 billion over the last decade. These alternative fuels are creating a new and vibrant sector in the U.S. economy, fostering jobs, businesses and economic benefits, particularly in rural America. But, the military cannot develop these fuels on its own, nor should it. The private sector must be a partner.

Repeal of existing policy would be a significant blow to this burgeoning industry and result in uncertainty that could cause investors to withdraw from the sector. At this time, continued investment is critical to ensuring that advanced biofuels become cost-competitive, reach commercial scale and can be widely used by the Department, the commercial aviation sector and others. DOD has stated, “repeal or exemption of Section 526 would send a negative signal to industry, which could result in adverse impacts to U.S. job creation, competitiveness and rural development efforts.”

Advanced biofuels offer opportunities for inventors, investors, farmers and energy companies alike. Maintaining this policy will both improve military energy security and provide DOD and private industry with the certainty needed to develop and scale up advanced biofuels. For these reasons, we again urge conferees to oppose efforts to repeal Section 526. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Advanced Biofuels Association
Airlines for America
Airline Pilots Association
Algae Biomass Organization
American Council on Renewable Energy
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Growth Energy
National Farmers Union
Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate