



## **EPA has White House Marching Orders to Use its Scissors to Cut the Red Tape & Allow E15 Use Year-Round**

- E15 is a clean, safe and low-cost fuel which can be used in 90 percent of the cars on the road today. Record growth and investment in retail infrastructure continues to increase E15 availability at over 1,400 retail locations in 30 states and counting.
- EPA has been instructed by President Donald Trump to remove an outdated Reid vapor pressure (RVP) regulation which currently blocks the sale of E15 in most of the country during the summer driving season (June 1 – Sept. 15). This will increase the fuel's availability, reduce refiner RIN costs, and open much-needed market access for surplus corn.
- On Oct. 9, President Trump instructed the EPA to initiate a rulemaking process to extend RVP relief to E15.
- Although the President's decision will not prevent Big Oil from stonewalling year-round E15, EPA has a legally defensible approach to remove this RVP regulatory burden.
- We encourage Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to expeditiously publish a rule in the Federal Register for public comment and to finalize the rule before the 2019 low-RVP season kicks in.

### Background

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to control the evaporative emissions of gasoline in certain parts of the country from the June 1 – Sept. 15 summer driving season to reduce ground-level ozone and smog.

EPA uses the RVP standard expressed in pounds per square inch (psi) to measure evaporative emissions. The higher the RVP of a fuel, the worse its emissions are. The RVP of gasoline can range from 7 to 15 psi. The RVP of pure ethanol is 2 psi. Most gasoline used in the U.S. today is actually a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline (E10). E10 gasoline has a RVP of about 10 psi.

In 1990, Congress gave EPA the authority to allow the use of E10 (the maximum amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline in 1990) during the June 1 – Sept. 15 season.

In 2011, EPA approved the use of E15, a fuel with lower RVP emissions than E10 and straight gasoline. Unfortunately, at the time, EPA refused to apply the same RVP standard to E15 that applies to E10.

EPA's refusal to allow E15, a cleaner, less emitting fuel to be used from June 1 – Sept. 15 in certain parts of the country handcuffs gas station owners who want to offer the fuel to their customers year-round.

Nine of every 10 cars on the road are E15 approved, including more than 25 million FFVs designed to use any fuel. Travelers Motor Club and Association Motor Club Marketing, with more than 20 million auto club members in all 50 states, report no engine damage from ethanol and endorse E15 as safe and affordable.

Allowing E15 to be sold year-round would increase ethanol blending by 300 to 700 million gallons in the short-term and result in a substantial increase in the supply of RIN credits, thereby reducing RFS compliance costs for refiners. Long-term, RVP relief is expected to increase ethanol demand by billions of gallons.

E15 typically costs 2 to 10 cents per gallon less than E10 and gasoline, so refusing to allow the sale of this fuel in the summer season also robs consumers of the opportunity to buy a lower cost product.