



March 8, 2017

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Fischer, Donnelly and Grassley:

On behalf of the members of the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE), I am writing to thank you for taking the initiative to introduce the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (S. 517).

ACE is a grassroots advocacy organization, powered by rural Americans from all walks of life who have built an innovative industry that sustainably delivers clean biofuel and valuable food for a growing world. Our members include U.S. ethanol biorefineries, investors in biofuel facilities, farmers and commodity organizations, and companies that supply goods and services to the U.S. ethanol industry.

In order to reduce summertime smog, the Clean Air Act limits the evaporative emissions of gasoline from the June 1 through Sept. 15 summer driving season. EPA uses Reid vapor pressure (RVP), expressed in pounds per square inch (psi), to measure the evaporative emissions of fuel. 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 fuel in the U.S. today is a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline (E10) with a RVP of about 10 psi.

In 2011 EPA approved the use of E15, a clean and safe fuel with lower RVP emissions than E10 and straight gasoline. E15 can be used in nine of every 10 cars on the road today and is currently available in approximately 650 locations in 28 states. Unfortunately, EPA has historically refused to apply the same RVP standard to E15 that applies to E10. As a result, the RVP regulation handcuffs gas station owners who want to offer E15 to their customers year-round. E15 typically costs 2 to 10 cents less per gallon than E10 and gasoline, so refusing to allow the sale of this fuel in the summer driving season also robs consumers of the opportunity to buy a lower cost product.

While we are very encouraged by statements from President Trump that EPA will revisit this regulatory burden, we also strongly support your legislation. In fact, nearly 70 of ACE's grassroots members will be calling on your colleagues to cosponsor the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act during our annual Washington, D.C., fly-in taking place March 22-23. Thank you for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President  
American Coalition for Ethanol