



2026

# ACE FLY-IN & Government Affairs Summit



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# PRIORITY ISSUES

## E15 YEAR-ROUND

Congress must enact permanent, nationwide year-round E15 to deliver immediate relief at the pump, strengthen U.S. energy security, boost a hurting farm economy, and restore certainty to the marketplace.

Increasing U.S. ethanol use is the fastest way to cut skyrocketing gasoline prices and shield Americans from pain at the pump caused by the oil supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. E15 typically saves consumers up to 30 cents per gallon, and during the recent historic shock to the global oil market, motorists buying E15 are saving up to 50 cents per gallon in some locations.

E15 would also help American farmers coping with the worst economic conditions in a generation. E15 use nationwide would increase corn demand by more than 2 billion bushels and improve farm income.

**Middle East market instability underscores the urgency of Congress taking action now to adopt the bipartisan Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act to provide market access to affordable, American-made E15.**

## STRONG RFS BLENDING TARGETS

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is arguably the most effective energy policy ever adopted by Congress. When properly implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it strengthens U.S. energy security, supports farmers and rural communities, lowers fuel costs for consumers, and improves air quality.

Increasing U.S. ethanol use through RFS blending targets is one of the best ways to grind through the domestic corn surplus and create new demand for American farmers who are facing their fourth consecutive year of net profit losses.

**EPA must set strong final blending obligations for 2026 and 2027 and ensure small refinery exemptions (SREs) do not undermine renewable fuel use. If exemptions are granted, EPA must reallocate the waived volumes or increase blending requirements to ensure the RFS continues to drive demand for renewable fuels.**

## SWIFT & CLEAR 45Z GUIDANCE NEEDED

The 45Z Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit is a technology-neutral incentive to encourage investments in low-carbon fuels.

Congress made several improvements to 45Z in the One Big Beautiful Bill, such as allowing transferability, removing unsubstantiated indirect land use change penalties, prioritizing North American feedstocks, and extending the credit through 2029.

While the U.S. Treasury released proposed rules in February, more clarity is needed on how ethanol producers can monetize low-carbon farming practices.

Treasury should work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy to determine the value of low-carbon farming practices, through tools like USDA's Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator (FD-CIC) and DOE's 45ZCF-GREET model, and swiftly finalize clear guidance.

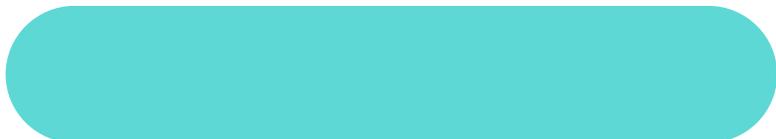
**Timely 45Z guidance is critical to unlocking private investment and ensuring farmers and ethanol producers are rewarded for measurable carbon reductions.**

## UNLOCK NEW MARKETS

Year-round E15 is urgently needed, but it is not the end of the road. Approximately 6,000 retail locations offer super low-cost E85 to drivers of flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs), and blends such as E20 and E30 can help refiners replace toxic aromatics in gasoline with a cleaner, healthier, and more affordable source of octane.

But new opportunities in maritime, heavy-duty engines, and aviation fuel markets await. What's more, as a building block for biochemicals, ethanol can be a sustainable alternative to petrochemicals and supply next-generation manufacturing, industrial, and consumer markets at home and abroad.

**Congress and the Trump administration can help unlock these opportunities by encouraging the production of FFVs, replacing harmful aromatics with ethanol's clean octane, and advancing forward-looking policies to support ethanol's role in non-road markets.**



# E15 YEAR-ROUND

Congress must enact permanent, nationwide year-round E15 to deliver immediate relief at the pump, strengthen U.S. energy security, boost a hurting farm economy, and restore certainty to the marketplace.

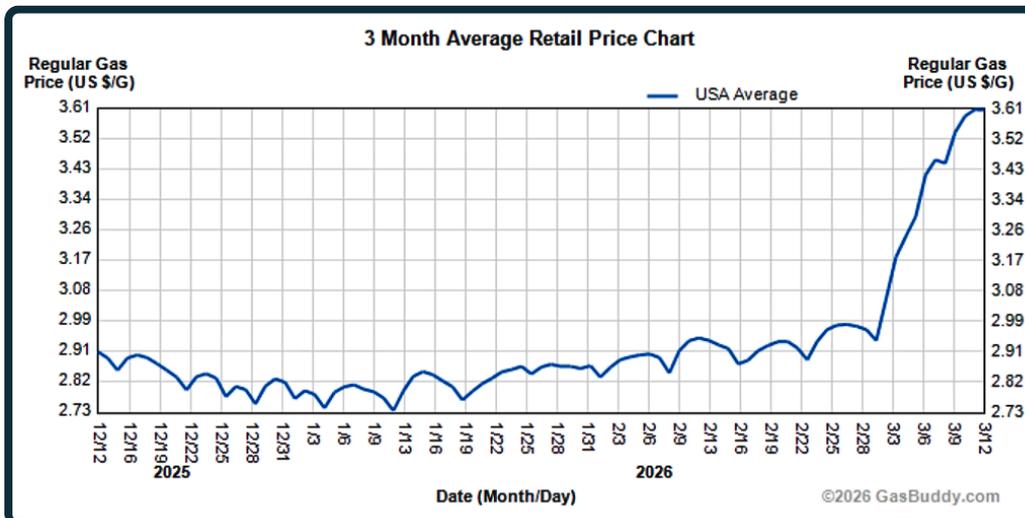
Increasing U.S. ethanol use is the fastest way to cut skyrocketing gasoline prices and shield Americans from pain at the pump caused by the oil supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz. E15 typically saves consumers up to 30 cents per gallon, and during the recent historic shock to the global oil market, motorists buying E15 are saving up to 50 cents per gallon in some locations. Nationwide E15 use would reduce consumer fuel spending by more than \$20 billion annually.



E15 would also help American farmers coping with the worst economic conditions in a generation, such as corn farmers facing a fourth consecutive year of profit losses. E15 use nationwide would increase corn demand by more than 2 billion bushels and improve farm income.



National average gas prices were at \$3.61 as of March 12, 2026, a significant increase from the \$2.80 level in January.



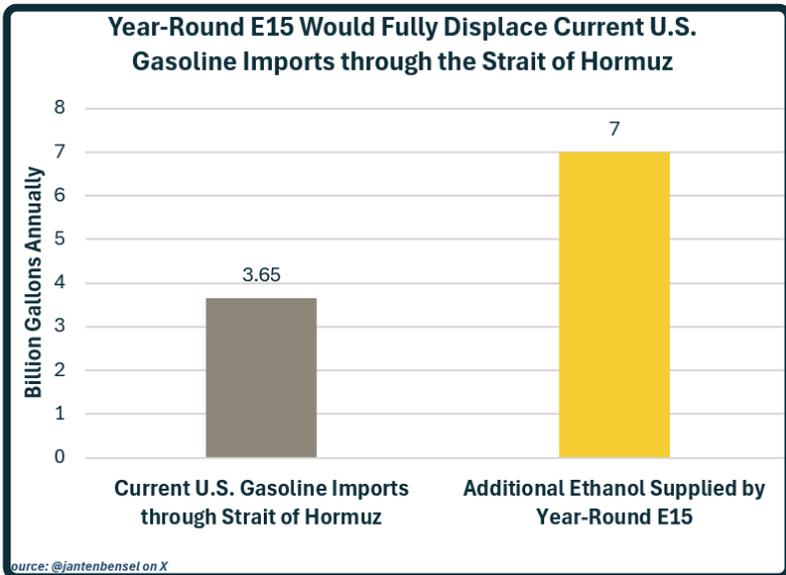
Enactment of E15 legislation has been held hostage by a handful of small and mid-sized oil refiners trying to line their pockets at the expense of American consumers and farmers. Instead of letting these disingenuous concerns by a small subset of refiners, some whom are Fortune 500 companies, stall action, Congress should stand with the supermajority of oil refiners who have united with agriculture, biofuel, and fuel retail groups in favor of bipartisan action from Congress on E15 year-round.

While EPA has issued emergency summer waivers since 2022, only Congress can provide a permanent, nationwide solution to relieve pain at the pump and prevent a confusing patchwork of state regulations.

**Middle East market instability underscores the urgency of Congress taking action now to adopt the bipartisan Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act to expand access to affordable, American-made E15 before the 2026 summer driving season.**

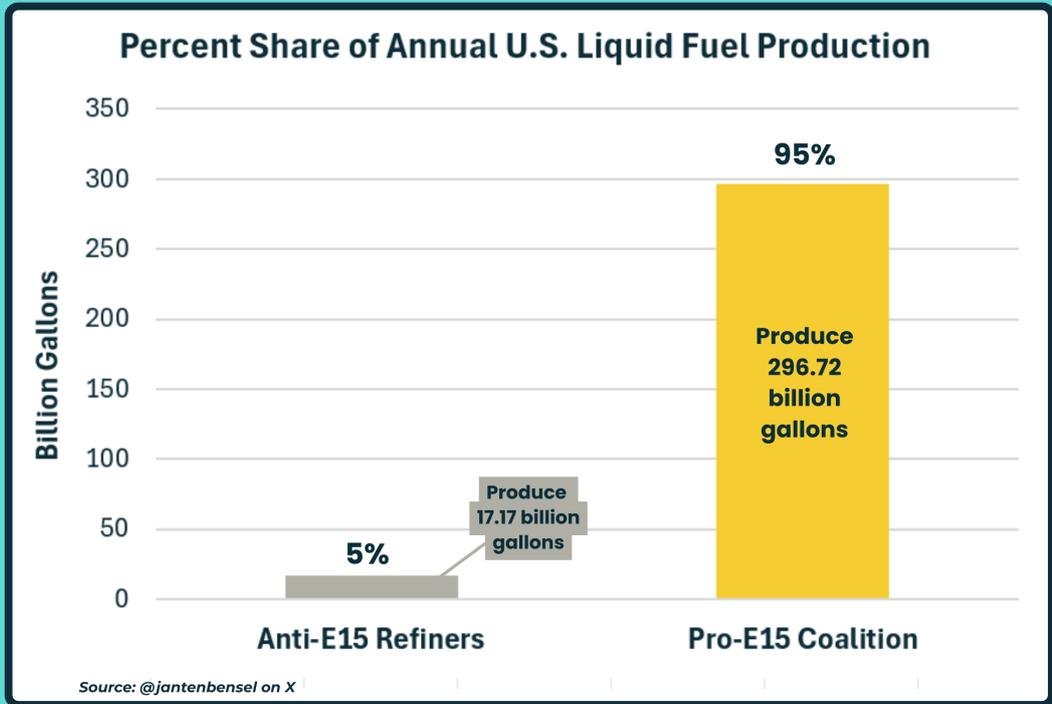
### The U.S. is Falling Behind Ethanol Blend Rate

	<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>E30</b>
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>E20</b>
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>E10</b>

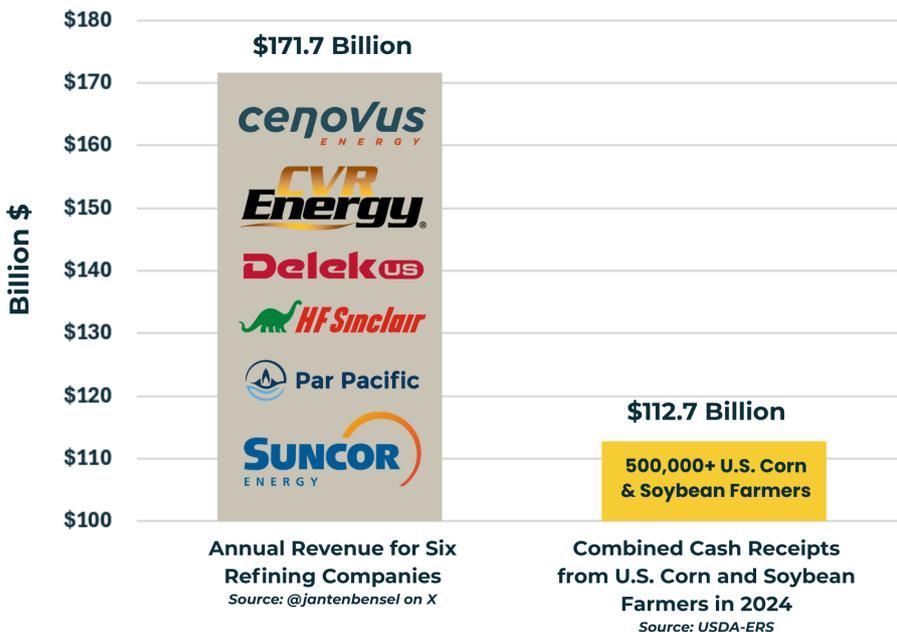


# Refiners Obstructing E15 Legislation

The pro-E15 coalition of large and small oil refiners and ethanol producers are responsible for 95% of total U.S. annual fuel production, while anti-E15 refiners account for only 5%.



### Six Refining Companies Who Make More Money than U.S. Corn and Soybean Farmers Should not be Allowed to Hold E15 Year-Round Hostage





## Strong RFS Blending Targets

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is arguably the most successful and effective energy policy ever adopted by Congress.

When properly implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the RFS strengthens U.S. energy security, supports America's farmers and rural communities, saves consumers money at the pump, and cleans the air for everyone.

Increasing U.S. ethanol use through RFS blending targets is one of the best ways to grind through the domestic corn surplus and create new demand for American farmers who are facing their fourth consecutive year of net profit losses.

### Proposed Volume Requirements 2023–2027

Billion RINs	Volume Requirement Established in Set 1 Rule			Proposed Volume Requirements	
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Cellulosic biofuel	0.84	1.09	1.38	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.36</b>
Biomass-based diesel (RINs)	4.51	4.86	5.36	<b>7.12</b>	<b>7.50</b>
<i>Biomass-based diesel (gallons) – projected</i>	2.82	3.04	3.35	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.86</b>
Advanced biofuel	5.94	6.54	7.33	<b>9.02</b>	<b>9.46</b>
Total renewable fuel	20.94	21.54	22.33	<b>24.02</b>	<b>24.46</b>
Conventional (implied mandate)	15.00	15.00	15.00	<b>15.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>

**EPA must set strong final blending obligations for 2026 and 2027 and ensure small refinery exemptions (SREs) do not undermine renewable fuel use. If exemptions are granted, EPA must reallocate the waived volumes or increase blending requirements to ensure the RFS continues to drive demand for renewable fuels.**

# Swift & Clear 45Z Guidance Needed

The 45Z credit, originally enacted by Congress through the Inflation Reduction Act, is a technology-neutral incentive to encourage investments in clean fuel production.

Congress made several improvements to 45Z in the One Big Beautiful Bill, such as allowing transferability of the credit, excluding unsubstantiated indirect land use change penalties from emissions rate calculations, prioritizing fuels made from feedstocks grown in the U.S., Mexico, or Canada, and extending the term of the credit through 2029.

In February, the U.S. Treasury Department proposed regulations which begin to address how the credit will work, but additional clarity is needed, particularly on how ethanol producers can monetize low-carbon farming practices through 45Z.

## Ethanol producers and farmers have significant capital at stake.

Treasury should move swiftly to finalize clear guidance, and work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy to develop and finalize the tools necessary to achieve full monetization of farming practices, such as USDA's Feedstock Carbon Intensity Calculator (FD-CIC) and DOE's 45ZCF-GREET model.

Since farming practices represent about half of ethanol's carbon intensity, producers must have the opportunity to monetize low-carbon practices such as reduced tillage or precision fertilizer use to fully unlock the value of 45Z.



**If Treasury allows low-carbon farming practices to qualify towards emissions rates it could mean BILLIONS of dollars annually for clean fuel producers and farmers.**

We are encouraged Treasury expects to update the 45ZCF FD-CIC with new data from real-world activities such as the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) activity being led by ACE, which is specifically designed to address information gaps regarding the low-carbon benefits of farming practices to help improve the accuracy of modeling tools. We are hopeful the FD-CIC and 45ZCF-GREET model are updated periodically to reflect the data we provide.



A properly implemented 45Z will do more than incentivize clean fuel production, it will strengthen U.S. energy security, support good-paying American jobs, and unlock new market opportunities for farmers and ethanol producers.

**Timely completion of the 45Z rulemaking is critical to unlocking private investment and ensuring farmers and ethanol producers are rewarded for measurable carbon intensity reductions.**



# Unlock NEW Markets



Year-round E15 legislation is an urgent priority, but it is not the final destination for ethanol. Approximately 6,000 retail locations in the U.S. offer E85 to drivers of more than 20 million flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) on the roads. ACE strongly supports increasing ethanol's blend rate in gasoline through E85 and midlevel blends such as E20 and E30.

In fact, blends such as E20 and E30 can help refiners replace toxic aromatics in gasoline, such as benzene and toluene, with a cleaner, healthier, and more affordable source of octane.

But ethanol's future extends far beyond the traditional light-duty vehicle fuel market. It is poised to unlock new opportunities in maritime, heavy-duty engine, and aviation fuel markets. What's more, as a building block for chemical and plastic production, ethanol can serve as a sustainable alternative to petrochemicals and supply a variety of next-generation manufacturing, industrial, and consumer markets at home and abroad.

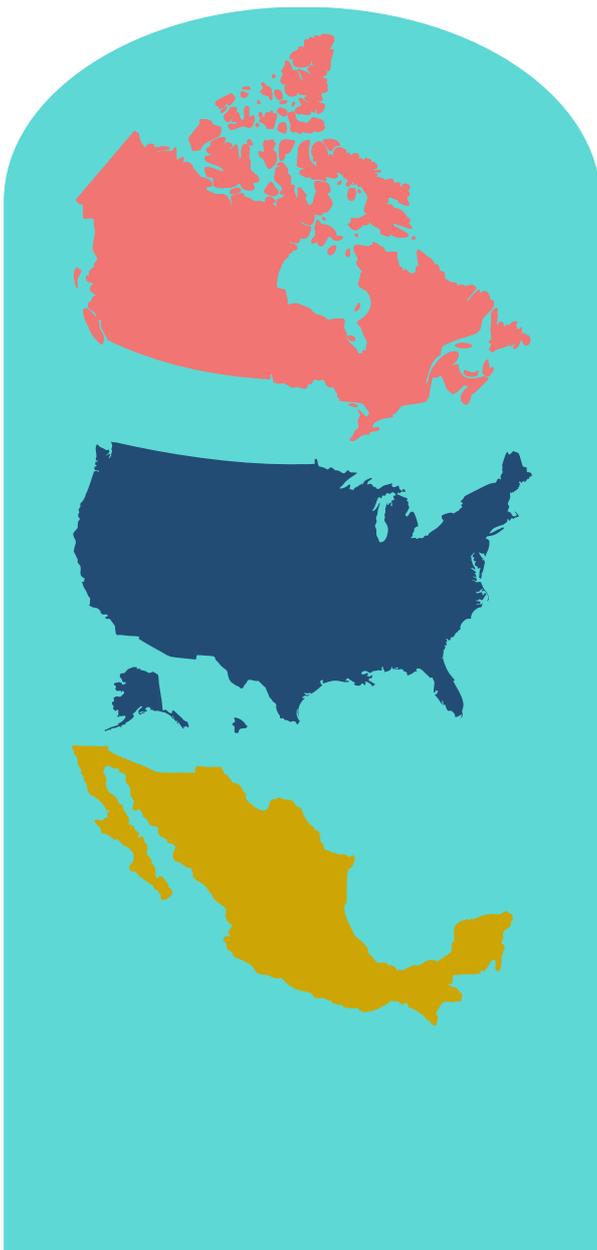
**Congress and the Trump administration can help unlock these emerging opportunities by encouraging the production of FFVs, replacing the use of harmful petroleum-based aromatics with ethanol's clean octane, and advancing forward-looking policies to support ethanol's role in non-road markets.**

# Export Markets are Critical for Ethanol

While ethanol continues to face artificial market constraints domestically, demand for U.S. ethanol as a source of clean, low-carbon, and affordable fuel is on the rise around the world.

**U.S. ethanol exports eclipsed 2 billion gallons in 2025, setting a new record and returning nearly \$5 billion in value to the domestic industry.**

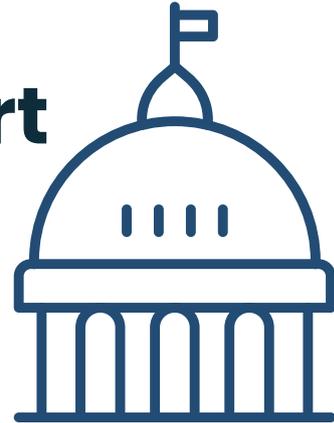
Nearly 90 countries imported U.S. ethanol last year, including top customers Canada, the European Union, and India.



## United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Works for America

Signed in 2018 and implemented in 2020 to replace NAFTA, the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) has boosted U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico, strengthened trade certainty, and created a mechanism for resolving trade disputes. As the administration approaches the 2026 mandatory review of the USMCA, the American Coalition for Ethanol joined other groups to form the Agricultural Coalition for USMCA, highlighting the agreement's importance to the U.S. farm economy and urging its renewal with targeted improvements. Renewing this trilateral agreement will keep the American economy growing, help expand U.S. ethanol and distillers grains exports, and provide long-term certainty for U.S. farmers.

# Legislation we Support in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress



- **Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (S. 593, H.R. 1346)** - to allow permanent sales of E15 year-round nationwide
- **Farm to Fly Act (S. 144, H.R. 1719)** - to support SAF through USDA programs
- **Comparison of Sustainable Transportation (COST) Act (H.R. 2188)** - directs the GAO and Energy department to compare the financial and environmental costs of replacing the federal vehicle fleet with either EVs or FFVs
- **Flex Fuel Fairness Act (S. 2291)** - to provide auto manufacturers incentives to produce FFVs, leveling the playing field for vehicles running on low-carbon liquid fuels like ethanol
- **Ethanol for America Act (S. 2591, H.R. 4864)** - to expand consumer access to E15 fuel by removing regulatory barriers, making E15 available year-round, and finalizing EPA rules to update fuel labeling
- **Securing America's Fuels (SAF) Act (S. 3759, H.R. 6518)** - restores the SAF bonus credit to \$1.75 per gallon and extends the 45Z Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit through 2033 to support agricultural markets and lower transportation emissions

# American Coalition for Ethanol

The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is the nation's grassroots ethanol advocate. Our members are the heart and soul of the ethanol industry. They include owners and investors in U.S. biorefineries, farmers, and small businesses supplying goods and services.

ACE has been leading the effort to ensure American ethanol and agriculture remain central to strengthening our rural economy, creating good-paying jobs, and securing our nation's energy security. Our work involves policy development and validation of the real-world carbon savings modern-day corn and ethanol production can deliver.

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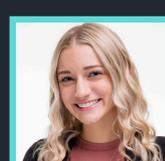
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