

May 7, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President

As fuel retailers who have collectively invested millions of dollars to bring fuel choice to consumers across the nation, we want to extend our sincere gratitude for your recent commitment to allow year-round sales of E15. As you have noted, the restrictions on the sale of E15 are “unnecessary and ridiculous.” Allowing year-round E15 sales will provide a lower-cost, cleaner-burning fuel option for consumers during the busy summer driving season, but we need you to act quickly.

On June 1st the summer fuel regulations kick in and, if left unchanged, will once again remove the option of E15 for most Americans. Therefore it is imperative that you direct the EPA to immediately begin the rule-making process necessary to turn your pledge into reality. Without regulatory relief, on June 1st we will see our E15 sales plummet and consumers forced to pay more for fuel than they should. In fact, the confusing on-again/off-again regulations hinder our sales of E15 throughout the year.

By allowing E15 sales year-round, we can lower gasoline prices, reduce emissions, use more home-grown fuels, boost the agricultural economy and increase competition in the fuel marketplace. Expanding E15 sales will also bring down the price of RINs the right way – by expanding ethanol use.

We know the rule-making process in Washington can sometimes be slow, so we further implore you to direct the EPA to use its enforcement discretion to allow summertime E15 sales if the E15 restrictions are not formally removed by June 1st. The purpose of the Clean Air Act is to reduce emissions. E15 reduces emissions. Nothing could be more justified than ending the arbitrary summertime E15 ban. Please follow through on your commitment and prevent another summer of lost opportunity.

Many of us invested in the equipment to blend our own E15 because the petroleum industry refused to make it readily available. As such, we acquire RINs as we blend. The value of RINs was part of the economic equation in our decision to invest in E15. This year, we have seen RIN prices tumble by two-thirds – not because of increased blending, but because of questionable and secretive RFS exemptions being handed out by the EPA. These actions by the EPA have undercut the return on our investments and have left us in the dark as to the real value of our RIN assets. Being allowed to sell E15 year-round would help take some of the economic pain out of the unexpected collapse of RIN values.

In closing, we can assure you that motorists appreciate having the option of E15 – our sales are strong and growing. There has not been one legitimate complaint about the use of E15 – the fuel works. We need your leadership to remove the “unnecessary and ridiculous” E15 restrictions – E15 needs a green light by June 1st. We’re counting on you.

Sincerely,

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