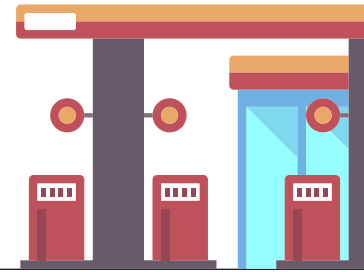


REID VAPOR PRESSURE (RVP)

# Removing Barriers to Consumer Fuel Choice



## ACTION:

Co-sponsor S. 517 and H.R. 1311 to extend the RVP waiver to ethanol blends above 10 percent and give consumers access to a more affordable fuel option year-round. Encourage EPA to fix this problem with their existing authority.

Fuel retailers want to offer American drivers the ability to save money at the pump while making a smarter choice for their engines and the environment. **But an outdated regulation is preventing them from doing that.**

**WANTED.** Fuel retailers want to offer E15 – a federally approved fuel with 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline – that is approved for roughly 90 percent of vehicles on the road today.

- E15 saves consumers [up to 10 cents per gallon](#).
- Higher octane fuels perform better in cars – ethanol is a 113-octane fuel, while regular gasoline is 87 octane. Ethanol improves engine performance while keeping them [clean and burning cooler](#).
- E15 is simply an additional option for consumers and is not replacing other fueling options at the pump.

waiver allowed the sale of E10 and lower ethanol blended fuels year-round per EPA regulation.

**BLOCKED.** E15 currently lacks the 1 psi RVP waiver, and because of this restriction, fuel retailers cannot offer E15 to consumers during the summer driving months.

**EQUITY.** This means that fuel retailers must go through the costly and unnecessary hassle of relabeling every single E15 dispenser twice a year – once on June 1 and again on Sept. 15 – causing fuel sales of E15 to plummet and harming business. Fuel retailers are forced to relabel every single E15 dispenser twice a year – costing roughly \$1.5 million.

**RESTRICTED.** An outdated regulation is blocking consumers from accessing a more affordable and kinder-for-the-earth fuel choice at the pump during the summer driving season.

Extending the RVP waiver to E15 makes sense – E15 actually has a lower RVP profile than E10 – the higher the ethanol blend percentage, the lower the RVP.

In 1990, Congress limited the amount of evaporative emissions from vehicle fuel during the summer months (June 1 to Sept. 15) at 9-pounds per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP).

**FIXING THE PROBLEM?** The Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (S. 517 and H.R. 1311) would extend the RVP waiver to E15 and give American consumers access to a more affordable fueling option year-round.

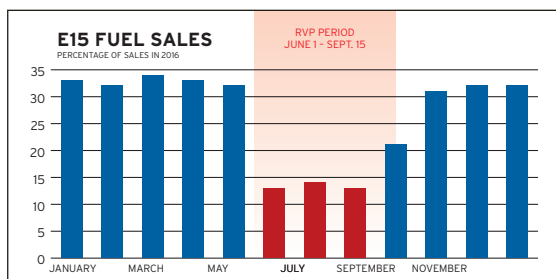
To meet the summer RVP requirement, Congress specified that 10 percent ethanol fuel blends would receive a 1 psi RVP waiver because all ethanol-blended fuels reduce tailpipe emissions. This RVP

Another route to accomplish the RVP goal is through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has legal options to grant RVP relief.

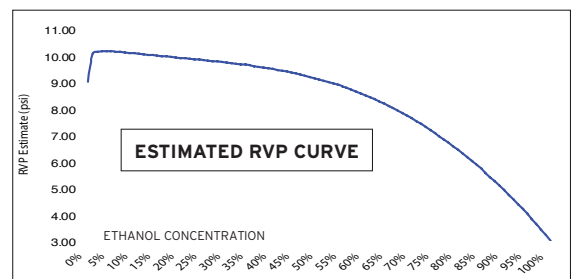


E15 labeling most of the year (left) vs. summer (right).

## FUEL RETAILERS SELLING E15



Source: Minnoco Sales Data



\*A Model for Estimating Vapor Pressures of Commingled Ethanol Fuels\*, October 29-November 1, 2007, General Motors Research and Development Center – Dr. Sam R. Reddy.



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