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May 8, 2018

Representative John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Environment
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Environment
2127 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko:

Thank you for this important opportunity to make our views known for today's hearing on the policy implications of conventional and electric vehicles. We appreciate you holding this hearing and are happy to provide comments on this topic.

Growth Energy is the leading association of the biofuels industry representing 91 producers, 72 associated industry partners, and tens of thousands of biofuel supporters. Our members are committed to ensuring a future with a prominent place for renewable fuels, which help Americans save money at the pump, provide a cleaner future for our environment, and improve the livelihood of rural America. Ethanol is a ready-made fuel that provides a myriad of benefits to the American public. Ethanol is renewable, high in octane, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and provides significant reductions in harmful tailpipe emissions like carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

Today, ethanol is blended in nearly every gallon of gasoline used throughout the country representing 97% of fuel used today, and our producers are poised to do provide more benefit to American drivers. With approval in place for E15 for all 2001 and newer vehicles, the fuel can now be used in 9 out of 10 vehicles on the road today with consumers saving 3 to 10 cents with each gallon and gaining another point in octane. And, as automakers look toward future vehicles to make more fuel efficient engines, they can take advantage of ethanol's substantial octane boost using a high octane, midlevel ethanol blend like E25 or E30 to optimize their engines.

Unfortunately, we still lack the ability to sell E15 year around to motorists across the country. Thanks to a 28 year old oversight in federal law, fuel retailers in conventional fuel areas cannot sell E15 during the summer to the same customers they serve the rest of the year without risking a \$37,500 per day fine. The same provision that was designed 28 years ago to drive ethanol growth and demand is now being used to stifle and stagnate market opportunities for our product. We encourage the Committee, Congress, or the Trump Administration to move forward with a way to fix this important problem.

We also strongly support the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), the 10 year old law that provides key market access for America's biofuels producers. By any objective measure of the policy, it has been wildly successful. It has diversified America's energy mix, making our nation less dependent on foreign energy. It has revitalized rural America, helping drive farm income growth and build an entire new American manufacturing industry. It has improved our environment, with a recent USDA study confirming that ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent compared to gasoline. It saves consumers at the pump, with standard 10 percent ethanol fuel (E10) saving consumers as much as 50 cents or more over non-ethanol fuel, and 3 to 10 cents when using E15 instead of E10. These are real, concrete successes, ones that can easily go away with poor administration by the EPA or misguided reform efforts in Congress.

We are happy to participate in a discussion of these issues, and look forward to the Committee's examination here today. Should you have any questions or need any further information, I would be happy to provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Emily Skor, CEO
Growth Energy