



Legislative Priorities

QUICK NOTES

Support The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and Oppose Schemes to Gut The RFS

Year-round E15: Removing Barriers To Consumer Fuel Choice

Support Efforts to Open Markets and Tear Down Trade Barriers

SUPPORT FARMERS AND OPPOSE SCHEMES TO GUT THE RFS.

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has helped ensure that drivers have access to less expensive, cleaner burning renewable fuel options at the pump. The policy has helped [curb greenhouse gas emissions, lowered our dependence on foreign oil](#), and [expanded the agricultural marketplace](#). Efforts to repeal or “reform” the RFS would increase gas prices and limit consumer choice at the pump, hurt rural America and farmers, and undermine progress made to [reduce harmful chemicals in gasoline that produce cancer-causing emissions](#).

Recently, the EPA has been undermining the goals of the RFS by issuing unwarranted RFS small refinery “hardship” waivers to an outrageous number of refiners that are neither small nor experiencing economic hardship. In 2016 and 2017 alone, at least [48 refiners were issued RFS compliance waivers](#). These actions [could cut ethanol demand by 2.25 billion gallons and reduce corn demand by more than 800 million bushels](#).

If this practice continues, it would be further devastating to biofuels, American farmers, and our rural economy. EPA must immediately cease issuing these unprecedented waivers and halt any future waiver applications being considered until they are administered consistently with the goals of the RFS.

Lastly, after months of RFS discussions, the proposal to implement [export RINS for biofuels was rejected by both the president and his administration](#). However, the oil industry continues to push for the proposal as a part of its efforts to dismantle the RFS and the biofuels industry. Such a proposal would only hurt American jobs, farmers, and our rural economy. Our analysis shows that exports RINs would likely [eradicate 1.4 billion gallons of ethanol exports](#) resulting in [corn losses of \\$27.9 billion](#) over the next four years, with an immediate drop of corn prices by 56 cents per bushel, and [a reduction of 25,000 jobs](#) supported by U.S. ethanol exports.

YEAR-ROUND E15: REMOVING BARRIERS TO CONSUMER FUEL CHOICE.

E15 is a dependable fuel that is approved for all 21st century cars. However, due to an outdated regulation, fuel retailers are restricted from selling E15 during the summer fueling season (June 1 - September 15).

This restriction is tied to [Reid Vapor Pressure \(RVP\)](#) – a measure of how quickly fuel evaporates. In 1990, Congress provided a one-pound per square inch RVP waiver to E10 (10 percent ethanol) fuels because all ethanol-blended fuels reduce tailpipe emissions. This RVP waiver allowed the sale of E10 and lower blends nationwide year-round. However, E15 currently lacks this RVP waiver, forcing fuel

retailers to relabel every single E15 dispenser twice a year – costing roughly \$1.5 million. The relabeling also causes confusion at the pump and deprives consumers from a less expensive fueling choice during the summer, when gasoline prices are at their highest.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the legal ability to fix this problem, and [President Trump has committed](#) to granting RVP relief for E15. It’s time for the EPA to accomplish the RVP goal and fulfill the president’s commitment to year-round sales of E15 nationwide.

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO OPEN MARKETS AND TEAR DOWN TRADE BARRIERS.

Last year, the U.S. exported a record amount of ethanol and is poised to break that record this year. Unfortunately, mounting trade pressures threaten to curtail this positive development, potentially closing important markets in China, Canada, Brazil, and the EU.

American farmers, ethanol producers, and our rural economy need relief from trade barriers that limit U.S. ethanol from accessing, competing, and growing within international markets.