

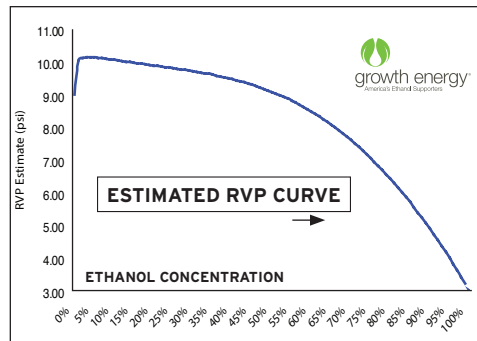
# ENACTING A NATIONWIDE PERMANENT FIX TO ALLOW YEAR-ROUND SALES OF HIGHER BIOFUELS BLENDS

## BACKGROUND

The Clean Air Act includes seasonal fuel vapor pressure provisions intended to reduce evaporative emissions in the summer months (June 1 to September 15) in order to reduce smog. In the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, Congress limited allowable fuel vapor pressure during the summer months to 9-pounds per square inch (psi) Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) in certain areas of the country.

Congress also specified, however, that the fuel blends containing 10 percent ethanol would receive a 1.0 psi RVP waiver from the season RVP limit to encourage use of ethanol-blended fuels, which provide significant reductions in tailpipe emissions.

The RVP waiver made the sale of ethanol blended fuels up to E10 possible year-round throughout the country. However, the waiver predates the introduction of higher blends of ethanol like E15, which have a lower RVP than E10.



SOURCE: "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

## REGULATORY & LEGAL MILESTONES

- 1990** Congress imposes RVP limits but grants an RVP waiver for E10 (Clean Air Act Amendments)
- 2009** E15 waiver filed with EPA
- 2011** EPA approves E15 for 2001 and newer cars
- 2019** EPA extends the RVP waiver to include E15
- 2019** AFPM challenges EPA rule
- 2021** DC Circuit ruling reverses EPA's waiver extension for E15
- 2022** EPA allows year-round E15 on an emergency basis
- 2023** EPA allows year-round E15 on an emergency basis
- 2024** State opt-outs to take effect

## BENEFITS OF HIGHER BIOFUEL BLENDS

- **E15 and higher biofuel blends have lower evaporative emissions** than standard vehicle fuels.
- Higher biofuel blends are better for air quality, **reducing both greenhouse gas emissions** and other pollutants like carbon monoxide.
- Ethanol **reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 46%** compared to gasoline.
- If the United States transitioned from E10 to E15 nationwide, greenhouse gas emissions would fall by 17.62 million tons per year, the **equivalent of removing approximately 3.85 million vehicles from the road.**
- Beyond environmental benefits, nationwide adoption of E15 would save consumers \$20.6 billion in annual fuel costs, put an additional \$36.6 billion in income into the pockets of American families, and generate \$66.3 billion for the U.S. GDP.

## GROWTH ENERGY'S ASK

**ASK** Support the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act (S.785/H.R.1608) to permanently extend E15 summer sales

## LEGISLATIVE FIX NEEDED FOR YEAR-ROUND E15

Growth Energy supports uninterrupted access to lower-cost E15, and a permanent fix is needed. Last summer, when E15 was available to address record-high gas prices, drivers across the country found savings as high as nearly a dollar per gallon thanks to E15.

