

June 14, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) enthusiastically supports S. 517, legislation that would extend the Reid vapor pressure (RVP) waiver to ethanol blends above 10 percent. Ethanol is the lowest cost, cleanest and highest octane source of fuel on the planet. Greater consumer access to higher level blends like E15 (15% ethanol) remains our top priority and we are committed to working with leaders in Congress to make that a reality.

E15 is legally approved for use in all vehicles built since 2001, meaning E15 is an approved fuel for more than 90% of the cars, trucks and SUVs on the road today. Further, more than 80% of 2017 model-year cars and light trucks have been explicitly approved by the automakers to use E15. E15 is currently sold at approximately 700 retail gas stations in 29 states. It is estimated that more than 750 million trouble-free miles have been driven on E15 since its commercial introduction in 2012.

Major retailers like Thornton's, Kum & Go, Sheetz, Murphy USA, and RaceTrac already offer the fuel blend. And in 2016, HWRT Oil Company became the first terminal operator to offer pre-blended E15 at wholesale terminals in Illinois, Indiana, and Arkansas.

The biggest remaining obstacle to E15 growth is the inequitable application of gasoline vapor pressure regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current regulations have created an un-level playing field for E15 and other higher-level blends. Many gasoline retailers have rejected E15 because EPA's current RVP regulations make it nearly impossible for them to sell E15 to EPA-approved conventional automobiles year-round. Most gas stations are not willing to dedicate storage tank space and dispensing equipment to a fuel that they can only sell for part of the year. Resolving the issue of RVP parity for E15 will remove the regulatory barrier that currently hinders stations from offering year-round access to E15 and other higher level ethanol blends.

Ensuring RVP parity for E15 is our industry's highest priority. The RFA encourages the Committee to expeditiously pass S. 517 to extend the existing RVP waiver to E15.

Sincerely,



Bob Dinneen
President & CEO