



April 30, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
 Environmental Protection Agency
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
 Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

The undersigned organizations, representing a diverse range of interests and industries including meat and poultry producers and processors, restaurants, marine manufacturers and small engine owners, development, conservation and environmental groups, and consumer and taxpayer organizations, are writing to express our deep concern with the Administration's potential decision to allow year-round sales of 15 percent ethanol blends in gasoline.

We support reforms to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), provided that these reforms address our range of concerns. These include the following:

- Reducing price volatility in the food and feed supply. As large shares of domestic corn and soy crops are now diverted from food use to fuel, producers of poultry, beef, pork and other livestock face volatile prices and increased competition for animal feed.
- Ensuring availability of low or no-ethanol fuels for use in marine and small engines. Ethanol wreaks havoc on the engines and fuel systems of boats, motorcycles, lawn equipment, as well as many automobiles, which are not capable or allowed to run on E15. Repair and replacement costs are a major issue for marine and small engine owners.
- Limiting the cost burden imposed on consumers and taxpayers and removing a market distortion. Consumers and taxpayers absorb and pay the higher cost for biofuel consumption mandated under the RFS.

- Mitigating the loss of wildlife habitat. Millions of acres of native prairie and other ecosystems have come under large-scale agricultural development because of the RFS, endangering species habitat, exacerbating agricultural run-off and degrading water quality.
- Ending incentives for biofuels that increase – not decrease – our contribution to climate change. Conventional, food-based biofuels drive land conversion at home and abroad, which results in carbon emissions that rival and sometimes exceed those of oil and gas.

Expanding markets for corn ethanol through increased sales of E15 not only falls short of these goals, it takes us in the opposite direction. It would benefit only a small subset of the economy, while negatively impacting many more, including the industries and interests represented here and the American public.

We appreciate the Administration's recognition of the problems created by this broken statute. However, given the comprehensive flaws inherent in the existing statute, we encourage you to urge Congress to take responsibility for the problems created by the RFS and fix this broken policy.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA
American Motorcyclist Association
American Sportfishing Association
BoatU.S.
Clean Air Task Force
EarthJustice
Mighty Earth
National Chicken Council
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Taxpayers Union
National Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
North American Meat Institute
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Sierra Club
Taxpayers for Common Sense