



October 23, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC

Dear President Trump,

Over the past year, we have joined community leaders across the country in calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lift summertime restrictions on the sale of E15, a 15 percent ethanol fuel blend. We write to thank you for announcing that a fix is now underway, and we offer our full support in this administration's efforts to reinvigorate economic growth in America's heartland by expanding markets for grain-based biofuels, like ethanol.

E15 is an increasingly popular fuel option in 30 states, where consumers can save money and support local farmers by utilizing more homegrown energy. Yet, every summer, the EPA forces many retailers to take this option away from consumers, increasing costs to motorists. As you have said, the rules against offering higher ethanol blends are "unnecessary and ridiculous."

Allowing year-round sales of higher ethanol blends like E15 will help to hold down fuel prices, strengthen U.S. energy security, and restore growth in hard-pressed rural communities. But time is running out. As you know, America's farmers have experienced a 47 percent decline in income over the past five years, and rising trade barriers threaten to accelerate the agricultural crisis. We saw the same pattern in the 1980s, and we know that a wave of farm foreclosures would mean tough times ahead for families and businesses across the Midwest.

That is why the EPA must work quickly to harness the vast renewable energy on America's farmland and expand competition at the fuel pump to benefit drivers and farmers alike. Nationwide, year-round sales of E15 could support rural manufacturing jobs at more than 200 biofuel plants across the heartland and generate demand for an additional two billion bushels of corn – a major boost for farm families.

Thank you for your commitment to rural prosperity and American biofuels. We look forward to working with you to get this important fix over the finish line as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Russ Allen - Co-Owner, AgriVision Equipment Group (Nebraska)
Reed Allen - Co-Owner, AgriVision Equipment Group (Nebraska)
Cindi Allen - Board Member, Nebraska Dry Bean Commission (Nebraska)
Bill Anderson - Executive Director, Cherokee Area Economic Development (Iowa)
David Anderson - State Representative (South Dakota)
Steven Ausdemore - President, Citizens State Bank (Nebraska)
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Julie Bartling - State Representative (South Dakota)
Larry Beyer - Farmer (Iowa)
Rick Billinger - State Senator (Kansas)
Bruce Bostelman - State Senator (Nebraska)
Elaine Bowers - State Senator (Kansas)
Bob Bowman - Farmer (Iowa)
Lydia Brasch - State Senator (Nebraska)
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Shane Greckel - Farmer (Nebraska)
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Melvin Neufeld - Former Speaker, Kansas State House (Kansas)
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Theresa Thibodeau - State Senator (Nebraska)
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Kenny Zoeller - Executive Director, Nebraska Republican Party (Nebraska)

cc: Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue