



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper:

The National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), NATSO: Representing America's Travel Centers and Truckstops, and SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers, together encompassing more than 90% of retail sales of motor fuel in the United States, encourage you to withdraw your opposition to legislation that would allow E15 to be sold year-round in the United States. If enacted, such legislation would allow for more environmentally friendly fuel to be sold at a lower cost to consumers. As importantly, it would signal to the market that long-term investments in lower carbon transportation energy – including biofuels and EV charging stations – will be rewarded rather than punished. The legislation's enactment would avoid unnecessary disruption, complexity, and price-increases in U.S. gasoline markets this coming summer.

Your opposition is the legislation's primary roadblock. We understand that you have a genuine interest in protecting the jobs of hard-working constituents at refineries in the mid-Atlantic. Legislation providing for year-round E15 would not fix the various problems those refineries face in the marketplace; but it causes them no harm whatsoever.

Since Congress enacted the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) almost twenty years ago, companies in our industry have made business decisions to adapt to the policy, which at its core was intended to incentivize the transportation sector to move toward domestically sourced, more environmentally friendly fuels. Not all companies chose to commit the resources to adjust to the RFS, but those that did have found that it works in large part the way Congress intended and has allowed them to sell more environmentally friendly fuels to consumers at a lower cost than traditional petroleum products.

The same dynamic is true in the refining industry. Some refiners adapted to the RFS and made investments in response to Congress and EPA's unambiguous policy signals. Those investments have at times generated a competitive advantage relative to companies that have chosen not to make them.

Frankly, refineries that oppose legislation permitting year-round E15 do so not because E15 creates a threat to their business or their ability to employ workers, but rather they seek to use the legislation as an opportunity to undermine the RFS and mitigate their perceived competitive disadvantage. For them, it is a bargaining chip, but preventing the legislation from moving forward risks real-world harm in the form of higher emissions and higher gas prices.

In reality, year-round E15 legislation would simply decrease emissions and lower prices at the pump. One can certainly support commonsense climate policy while remaining an unambiguous champion for organized labor.

As this legislation continues to stall, forward-thinking companies that followed the rules and behaved in the manner Congress intended are left in the lurch. Those considering installing EV charging stations or hydrogen refueling infrastructure are growing to doubt whether those investments will be rewarded or punished by the next generation of climate conscious policymakers.

Legislation to allow year-round E15, particularly if coupled with robust incentives for biofuel production and blending, would unlock private capital for low carbon fuel investments, reduce transportation emissions, and lower gas prices for consumers.

We strongly encourage you to withdraw your opposition to that effort.

Sincerely,

National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS)
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truck Stops
SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers