

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to request that you again take swift executive action to permit the sale of E15 fuel during the 2024 summer driving season by extending the Reid vapor pressure (RVP) waiver, nationwide, from June 1 through September 15.

Enabling the year-round sale of E15, as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permitted in both 2022 and 2023 through nationwide temporary waivers under Clean Air Act Section 211(c)(4)(C)(ii), helped allow our energy supply chain to “address extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstances caused by the war in Ukraine that are affecting all regions of the nation.”^{1,2} Unfortunately, this underlying justification remains applicable as Russia’s war of aggression continues to weigh on global energy and security. Further, Iran-backed aggression in the Middle East, specifically Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, presents new threats to global energy markets and our energy security.

To counter these influences, we must pursue an all-of-the-above energy strategy, which includes leveraging domestic biofuels. As your previous temporary waivers have proven, permitting the sale of higher blends of biofuels like E15 through the summer driving season bolsters the domestic fuel supply, lowers consumer costs, and promotes the environmental benefits of American biofuels and modern agriculture.

Furthermore, temporary action is again required in light of the EPA’s announcement to postpone until 2025 the implementation of eight state petitions to sell E15 year-round. As you know, the consideration of state action has led to a historic agreement between liquid fuel stakeholders in support of securing a permanent legislative solution to allow nationwide, year-round E15 sales, while respecting each state’s authority to opt-out of such a program. Taking temporary action now will continue the uninterrupted sale of E15 for what would be the sixth consecutive year, a major win for consumer choice and emissions reductions.

Lastly, extending the nationwide sale of E15 could again add billions of gallons of ethanol to the fuel supply at a time domestic inventories of crude oil and petroleum products are at their lowest point since May 2004, below when the EPA issued its 2022 and 2023 waivers. Furthermore, additional decreases in OPEC oil production will only amplify the already robust market for U.S. exports at a time of rising fuel demand.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-08/extensionof-nationwide-fuel-waiver-allowing-e15-gasoline082622.pdf>

² <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/e15-waiver-letter-2023-29-08.pdf>

American biofuels remain a straightforward, no-cost solution to shoring up our energy supply and reducing consumer costs, and issuing a waiver for the 2024 summer driving season remains in the public's best interest. Thank you for your swift consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Thune
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



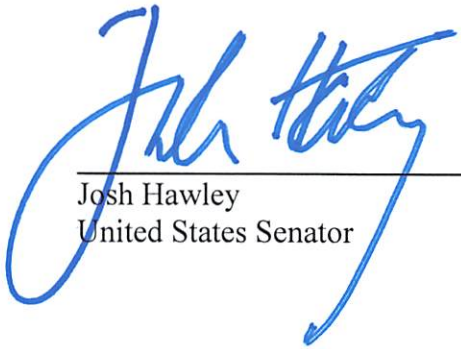
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



JD Vance
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
cc: The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture