The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460  

April 30, 2018  

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write today regarding President Trump’s recent commitment to allow for 15 percent ethanol blends (E15) to be sold year round. We also seek information and a transparent timeline from you on the regulatory pathway forward to address the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) issue in the wake of the president’s announcement.  

Collectively, we are long-time supporters of the effort to address the RVP issue and make E15 available year around across the United States. Allowing an open marketplace with more fuel options for consumers encourages competition and drives down consumer fuel costs. Moreover, E15 lowers evaporative and tailpipe emissions when compared to 10 percent ethanol fuel, improving the environment. Resolving this issue also provides a pathway to increase farm income at a time when producers are struggling with a depressed farm economy, low commodity prices, and tight margins.

Congress never intended the RVP waiver to effectively be a market cap on the amount of ethanol blended in gasoline. Rather, this provision was intended to provide a pathway for ethanol to grow and thrive in the fuel marketplace when it was passed in 1990. The current interpretation is outdated and has created an untenable regulatory barrier to E15 as a readily available option for motorists. As the fuel marketplace has changed over the past 28 years since the RVP waiver for 10 percent ethanol blends was first approved, this provision needs to change as well.

First, we ask you to provide an expected timeline of the rulemaking process to clarify how the agency will make this change to allow higher ethanol blends access to the market place. Additionally, we ask that you provide immediate clarity to allow higher ethanol blends to be sold in the interim while the outdated regulation is being changed. Doing this will fulfill the president’s commitment to allow consumer’s access to these fuels year-round, expand consumer choice, and eliminate confusion at the pump.

Should you require any further information, please let us know. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Deb Fischer  
United States Senator  

Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Ben Sasse
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator