



Monday, June 13, 2022

The United States House of Representatives
Congressional Biofuels Caucus Membership
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the Biofuels Caucus:

On behalf of the members of the Renewable Fuels Association, I write today to express our support for the passage of H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act. We are confident that the measures contained in this package will deliver lower fuel costs and improved environmental outcomes. Specifically, year-round availability for ethanol blends of 15% (E15) is needed to ensure consumers the lowest-cost option at the pump and deliver improved air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions from transportation. Additionally, the included infrastructure investment for higher blends will enable wider availability of cleaner and more affordable fuels across the country.

Ensuring the year-round nationwide availability of E15 is a commonsense solution using a product that is already saving consumers money at the gas pump today. Current E15 prices range from 10-40 cents per gallon less than standard gasoline. Use of E15 and higher blends increases US energy independence and creates domestic jobs by using more of a homegrown product to offset imported crude oil. Ethanol production also plays an important role in the nation's food supply by efficiently creating high-protein animal feed as a coproduct.¹ E15 also offers an improvement in greenhouse gas emissions (by blending more of a fuel with a 44-52% lower carbon intensity²), lower volatility/smog potential than regular gasoline with 10% ethanol³, and finally, E15 is approved for use in more than 97% of cars and trucks on the road today. The year-round availability of E15 only requires action because of a legislative technicality that was written before higher blends were considered. This legislation offers an important opportunity to correct this issue and deliver for US consumers.

RFA also supports the biofuel infrastructure and agriculture product expansion provisions within the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act. The above benefits of E15—as well as higher blends such as E85—can be made available to more of the country with prompt investment in the dispensers,

¹ “Dried Distillers Grains (DDGs) Have Emerged as a Key Ethanol Coproduct,” Amber Waves, USDA, October 2019 <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2019/october/dried-distillers-grains-ddgs-have-emerged-as-a-key-ethanol-coproduct/>

² Lee, U., Kwon, H., Wu, M. and Wang, M. (2021), Retrospective analysis of the U.S. corn ethanol industry for 2005–2019: implications for greenhouse gas emission reductions. *Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.*, 15: 1318-1331. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2225>

³ Testimony of Janet Yanowitz, P.E., Ph.D. Principal, EcoEngineering, Inc. The United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Hearing On S.517, Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act June 14, 2017 <https://ethanolrfa.org/file/2207/8E5C829826FAD93B7CD832FDF6979830.yanowitz-testimony-06.14.2017.pdf>

tanks, pumps, and components that bring these fuels to consumers. These grants will accelerate such investments and spread access to higher blends to parts of the country where they are not on sale today.

RFA sees these two measures working together to make a meaningful difference to US consumers, all while delivering increased energy independence and environmental benefits. We thank you for considering our input on this legislation and we would be happy to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Geoff Cooper
President and CEO