## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

## Dear President Biden:

We request you expeditiously take action to permit the nationwide sale of gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) fuel during the 2024 summer driver season by extending the Reid vapor pressure (RVP) waiver from June 1-September 15, 2024.

In 2022 and 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enabled the year-round sale of E15 by granting temporary waivers under *Clean Air Act* Section 211(c)(4)(C)(ii) by temporarily waiving the 9.0 psi RVP limit for ethanol gasoline blends. This action allowed the U.S. energy supply chain to remain resilient despite fuel supply disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine.

By granting another emergency waiver, the U.S. can counter foreign influence and pursue an all-of-the-above energy strategy that leverages biofuels and saves Americans money at the pump. Previous EPA waivers have demonstrated that permitting the summer sale of E15 through the summer driving season strengthens the domestic fuel supply, lowering consumer costs and providing reliable markets for our nation's farmers.

As you know, the EPA announced on February 29, 2024 eight midwestern states would be permitted to allow the year-round sale of E15 beginning in 2025. However, with the implementation of this decision delayed until 2025, it creates immediate uncertainty and a regulatory gap for the 2024 summer driving season, despite research submitted by those eight governors demonstrating immediate air quality benefits from removing the 1-psi waiver for E10 in their states. Temporary action is again required to continue the uninterrupted sale of E15 for what would be the sixth year in a row.

Extending the nationwide sale of E15 can again bolster our nation's energy resilience by adding billions of gallons of ethanol to the nation's fuel supply at a time when domestic inventories of crude oil and petroleum products are at their lowest point in almost twenty years. The current stockpiles are currently lower than those which contributed to an emergency fuel waiver for summer E15 in both 2022 and 2023. This, combined with the new and ongoing geopolitical conflicts abroad, demonstrates the necessity for another emergency waiver.

Unfortunately, the justification for the previous 2022 and 2023 emergency waivers continues to persist. The conflict in Ukraine has entered its third year as Russia continues to disrupt the global energy supply chain by enacting a gasoline export ban while Russian oil rightfully remains banned in the United States. Additionally, access to petroleum from the Middle East has been limited by voluntarily cuts in oil production by Saudi Arabia and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, as well as Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

Home-grown, American biofuels are a straightforward, no-cost solution that strengthen our nation's energy infrastructure, support our farmers, and reduce consumer costs. We request you expeditiously grant this emergency waiver for 2024.

Sincerely,

Adrian Smith

Member of Congress

Mark Pocan

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson

Member of Congress

Sam Graves

Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids

Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.

Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Member of Congress

Max I Miller

Member of Congress

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

Mike Bost

Member of Congress

Mark Alford

Member of Congress

Don Bacon

Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach

Member of Congress

Mike Flood

Member of Congress

**Brad Finstad** 

Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner

Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra

Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly

Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski

Member of Congress

Zach Munn

Member of Congress

James R. Baird

Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee

Member of Congress