



April 29, 2019

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0775

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Administrator
Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail code: 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

On behalf of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), I submit the following comments supporting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule updating E15 sales.

ARA is a not-for-profit trade association that represents America's agricultural retailers and distributors. ARA members provide goods and services to farmers and ranchers which include: fertilizer, crop protection chemicals, seed, crop scouting, soil testing, custom application of pesticides and fertilizers, and development of comprehensive nutrient management plans. Retail and distribution facilities are scattered throughout all 50 states and range in size from small family-held businesses or farmer cooperatives to large companies with multiple outlets.

ARA strongly supports lifting outdated restrictions against year-round sales of E15, which is good for consumers, the environment, and rural communities.

Fifteen percent ethanol blends cut carbon emissions, while allowing motorists to save up to 10 cents per gallon. For eight months out of the year, E15 is a popular option across 30 states. There is no reason to block drivers from taking advantage of that same opportunity each summer.

Outdated regulations on Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) not only limit access to cleaner, more affordable fuel choices at the pump – they also impose needless costs on fuel retailers, and they cut off a critical market for farmers and biofuel producers across the heartland.

We believe the EPA must act swiftly to unleash year-round access to E15 and reject any regulatory efforts that discourage investment in E15 and other higher ethanol blends.

By supporting year-round sales of E15, I support consumer choice, affordable and sustainable fuel options, and a stronger economy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "C".

Hunter Carpenter
Director of Public Policy
Agricultural Retailers Association