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CO-CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
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DEMOCRATIC STEERING
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS
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PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT
LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

October 5, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request your support for farmers by finally honoring your pledge to grant a Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver, which you have repeatedly committed to do, for E15 (gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol) from June 1 to September 15. Further, we urge you to honor this pledge without taking other actions that undermine the current effectiveness of the Renewable Fuels Standard. Allowing the year-round sale of E15 represents a significant step towards strengthening America's Heartland.

Commodity farmers are currently facing unprecedented challenges. Stagnating prices are chief among them. A bushel of corn in August, 2018 sold for \$1.90 less than it did 10 years ago in August, 2008. At the same time, farm expenses continue to rise. With these and many other obstacles threatening Heartland agriculture, farmers are more reliant than ever on expanding markets.

The current law restricting the sale of E15 during summer months presents a major obstacle to increased market share for corn farmers. Ninety-seven percent of vehicles in the United States are E15 compatible, yet only a little over 1% of fueling stations currently sell this blended fuel. The prohibition on E15 sales during the summer months, when fuel demand is at its highest, represents a major deterrent to more widespread adoption of E15 pumps by fueling stations. Furthermore, there is no evidence that the RVP for E15 is any higher than for E10.

We request that you remove this unnecessary regulatory burden that is impeding economic growth in the Heartland and grant a RVP waiver for E15. The number of stations that will be able to sell E15 is projected to nearly double by 2021, and opening markets to year-round E15 sales presents a potential new market for billions of bushels of corn. It would also strengthen ethanol refineries which are engines driving economic growth for many rural communities.

At a time when American agriculture is under attack and the livelihoods of many in the Heartland are threatened, we ask that you renew your commitment to support and expand markets for farmers and "empower them to do the hard work that they love to do so much."

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress