

EPA's approval of E15 for 2007-10 model vehicles is positive move

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Corn Growers Association is pleased with the EPA's approval of E15 for model year (MY) 2007 and newer vehicles. E15 is a fuel blend of 85 percent petroleum fuel and 15 percent ethanol. The EPA is expecting results from the Department of Energy's current research on the use of E15 for MY vehicles from 2001-2006 by the end of this year, which will affect an additional 86 million American vehicles.

According to Mark Sponsler, Executive Director of Colorado Corn, "This is clearly a step in the right direction for America: ethanol is good for our environment, our economy and it is energy efficient.

"While only a small step, this decision by the EPA moves us toward strengthening a renewable energy infrastructure and that is essential to meeting the renewable energy goals for this country. Every American citizen can feel good about that because ethanol is 'good' for America."

In September, research by Ricardo Inc., an internationally renowned automotive engineering firm, concluded E15 is secure for MY vehicles from 1994-2000, which represents 25 percent of all vehicles on the roads today.

"We strongly urge the EPA and the Department of Energy to expedite their remaining testing and cut through bureaucracy to quickly approve the E15 blend for all vehicles," said NCGA President Bart Schott, a grower in Kulm, N.D.

"Consumers deserve clarity. The National Corn Growers Association looks forward to working with EPA, the U.S. departments of Energy and Agriculture and the ethanol industry to bring higher blends of ethanol to all—providing a cleaner environment, increased energy security, more jobs throughout our economy and real fuel choices to consumers."

This new higher blend of E15, once it is available to consumers in all states, is estimated to provide over 150,000 new jobs for Americans as well as an additional \$24 billion in additional revenue for the government at local, state and federal levels. It would reduce carbon emissions equivalent to taking 1.35 million vehicles off the road and reduce America's foreign oil imports

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by an estimated seven billion gallons.

Growth Energy recently “embraced as an ‘important first step’ the EPA’s decision to raise the blend wall from E10 to E15 for 2007 and newer vehicles, in response to Growth Energy’s Green Jobs petition.

“However, the coalition of U.S. ethanol supporters said much more must be done to reduce America’s dependence on foreign oil, create jobs here in the United States and improve our environment.

“The existing E10 standard, which permits up to 10 percent ethanol blended into fuel, was set in the 1970s to help spur the growth of a domestic, renewable fuels industry in answer to America’s first major oil crisis, engineered by OPEC.

“In March 2009, Growth Energy filed a petition with EPA to permit the raising of that regulatory cap on the ethanol blend from 10 percent to 15 percent.”