

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator – 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

We write to express concern about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) upcoming proposed rule titled Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15; Modifications to RFS RIN Market Regulations. While the abstract of the rule seeks to propose regulatory changes that would allow the year-round sale of gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15), it fails to include critical consumer safety protections that must be included in any effort to expand the sale of E15. As the EPA develops the proposed rule, we urge you to include a robust consumer education program and more effective fuel pump labeling requirements to better communicate the risks of mis-fueling with E15.

Most consumers are unaware that fuel with ethanol blends exceeding 10 percent are prohibited for use in smaller engines—like those in boats, generators, lawnmowers, and motorcycles—and can destroy these types of engines. The proposed rule will significantly increase the risk of mis-fueling as more E15 fuel floods the market at a time of year when small engine use is at a peak, ultimately harming the millions of consumers who depend on a stable, safe fuel supply. In response to concerns from our constituents, we introduced H.R. 5855, *The Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act of 2018*, which would direct the EPA to improve labeling and fuel pump safeguards and expand consumer awareness on how to safely use fuel containing more than 10 percent ethanol. Collectively, these steps will significantly reduce the number of consumers who mis-fuel each year.

It is imperative that the EPA capitalize on the opportunity provided by this rulemaking to fix its currently inadequate E15 labeling by including enhanced education measures and new labeling standards in any effort to expand the sale of E15. With these critical updates, consumers and stakeholders can become part of the solution for raising awareness of the prohibited uses of E15.

We thank you for your consideration and stand ready to serve as a partner in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress