



Ohio Ethanol Producers Association
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**Ohio House Agriculture Committee
Interested Party Testimony | House Bill 96
Regis Sherry Representing Ohio Ethanol Producers Association
February 27, 2025**

Chairman Creech, Vice Chairman Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm Regis Sherry, General Manager of POET Bioprocessing Marion, Ohio's largest biofuel plant, and am here on behalf of the Ohio Ethanol Producers Association.

Today I ask for your support of an amendment to HB 96 that would create a grant program under the Department of Agriculture to incentivize fuel retailers to offer higher blends of biofuels at their stations. This grant program will help level the playing field and promote greater competition in the marketplace. This will benefit consumers, increasing their fuel options, as well as producers, and rural economies.

Ohio is one of the largest corn and ethanol producing states but trails badly in retail access to E15 with just 166 locations statewide. States like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa have hundreds more. This grant program will incentivize more retailers to consider offering E15, increasing access and delivering bigger savings, at far more locations, in more communities across the state.

The proposed grant would provide a five-cents per gallon incentive to the Ohio fuel retailers on each gallon of E15 sold. The grant program will help offset the costs for retailers of updating signage, replacing any nozzles, or handing hardware, and if necessary, reconfiguring and recalibrating fuel dispensers.

E15 is approved for 96 percent of cars, pickups, and SUVs on the road today. It saves consumers money at the pump and on the road with no discernible loss in engine performance or fuel economy.

When considering consumer savings, and increasing access to Ohio grown fuel, this grant more than pays for itself. Last year, Americans saved more than 25 cents per gallon with E15 compared to standard E10 gasoline, with savings reaching 40 to 60 cents per gallon in some states. Additionally, Ohioans could see significantly more fuel savings in markets where E10 only retailers are forced to compete with E15 on price.

Increasing access to E15 will lift farm incomes, generate more state and local tax revenues, and grow capital investments across the state. Supporting an E15 Access Grant under the Ohio Department of Ag will ensure we can harness more Ohio grown fuel, and more of the money families spend getting where they need to go stays in Ohio.

With your committee and chamber's support of this grant Ohioans will have more freedom to pick the best fuel for them, and at the same time, save money and grow our economy. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.