



Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Proponent Testimony | House Bill 96  
May 14, 2025

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Koehler, Ranking Member, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources 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.

I am here today to applaud the House for their leadership in paving the way for increased access to significant fuel savings and options for consumers that will also benefit Ohio's rural economy, and respectfully request that the Senate maintain the E15 Motor Fuel Rebate Program. This program will create a grant program under the Department of Agriculture to incentivize fuel retailers to offer higher blends of biofuels at their stations, and help level the playing field and promote greater competition in the marketplace, benefiting consumers, 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 new gallon of E15 sold. The grant program will help offset any potential costs for retailers to update signage, replace nozzles and hanging hardware if necessary, or recalibrate fuel dispensers and software.

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 E-10 only retailers will directly 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 continued 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.