



Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
Proponent Testimony | House Bill 96  
May 27, 2025

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today on behalf of Ohio Ethanol Producers Association in support of the E15 Motor Fuel Rebate Program. We applaud the House for their recognition of the broad reaching positive impact of this program, paving the way for increased access to E15. We respectfully request the Senate maintain this important program.

The E15 Motor Fuel Rebate 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. This will benefit 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 program would provide a five-cents per gallon incentive to the Ohio fuel retailers on each new gallon of E15 sold, which will help offset any potential costs for retailers to update signage, replace nozzles and hanging hardware if necessary, or recalibrate fuel dispensers and software.

Increased access to E15 will unlock instant saving opportunities for Ohio fuel consumers, as 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. At 25 cents per gallon, if the program is maximized by retailers, consumers in Ohio could save a total of \$50 million dollars. 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 also lift farm incomes, generate more state and local tax revenues, and grow capital investments across the state. Supporting this program 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.

This program will give Ohioans more freedom to pick the best fuel for them, save money and grow our economy. We respectfully request your continued support.