



Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
Opponent Testimony | Substitute House Bill 96  
June 6, 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 the Ohio Ethanol Producers Association to share our opposition to Senate's removal of the E15 Motor Fuel Rebate Program in the Substitute House Bill 96. Removing this program is a missed opportunity for Ohio consumers to realize significant savings and support Ohio industry, farmers, and rural economies.

The E15 Motor Fuel Rebate Program would create a grant program under the Department of Agriculture to incentivize fuel retailers to offer higher blends of biofuels at their stations, help level the playing field, and promote greater competition in the marketplace. A free market requires choices, and currently, less than 2% of stations offer E15. This program will benefit consumers, producers, and rural economies.

Although Ohio is one of the largest corn and ethanol-producing states, it trails badly in retail access to E15 with just 166 locations statewide. This program would provide a five-cents per gallon incentive to the Ohio fuel retailers on each new gallon of E15 sold to expand fuel offerings and help offset any potential costs for retailers to update signage, replace nozzles and hanging hardware if necessary, or recalibrate fuel dispensers and software.

We recognize that the Ohio Senate is looking for avenues that will help Ohioans keep more of their hard-earned money, and in that case, this program is a huge win. Increased access to E15 will unlock instant saving opportunities for nearly every Ohio fuel consumer, 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. In fact, when considering consumer savings, 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 fully utilized by retailers, consumers in Ohio could save a total of \$50 million dollars. Additionally, Ohioans could see significantly more fuel savings in markets where E10-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.

We appreciate your consideration and urge you to reinstate the E15 Motor Fuel Rebate Program, which will give Ohioans more freedom to pick the best fuel for them, save money, and grow our economy. We urge you to support amendment SC\_1 36\_2915.