

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Derek Merrin
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
77 S. High St
Columbus, OH 43215



Dear Chairman, Merrin:

On behalf of United Dairy Farmers (UDF), I write to express our support for House Bill 165. United Dairy Farmers is a family owned multi generation convenience retailer operating nearly 200 stores primarily located in Ohio. Additionally, we are a proud member of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants.

Consumer choice is important to UDF. House Bill 165 provides consumers with more fuel choices through a program that provides a limited-time, non-refundable credit to retailers that sell high-ethanol blends of motor fuel.

Ethanol fuel sales are growing across the country. According to the Renewable Fuel Association, nearly [500 million gallons of ethanol was sold in 2019](#). Unfortunately, almost all of this sales growth happened in states other than Ohio. It has happened largely in states that offer various incentives and programs such as state-fleets that run on ethanol or tax regulations that encourage ethanol use. Currently, Ohio does not offer incentives or programs.

House Bill 165 is a proposal which could change that. It will not require retailers to install E15 and E85 pumps, but it provides an opportunity to offset initial cost of installing equipment for the retailers who chose to take advantage of the program and want to offer their customers more fuel choices. Additionally, it will also open the door for interested Ohio independent businesses and convenience stores to compete with retailers in other states, continue to grow sales with lower cost fuel blends, and help offset Ohio's recent gas tax increase.

We applaud Rep. McClain for bringing forth the legislation and urge support from members of the committee. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Drew Brower
VP of Fuel Operations