



Glenn Badenhop, American Freedom Energy  
House Bill 324 Proponent Testimony  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
June 12, 2024

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to share my support of House Bill 324.

My name is Glenn Badenhop, and my son Greg and I co-own American Freedom Energy, LLC located in Liberty Center, Ohio. We are proud to say that in 2013 American Freedom Energy became the first station in Ohio to offer customers E15 (Unleaded 88) and to offer higher blends of ethanol E20 and E30 by putting in blender pumps 10 years ago. We did so for several reasons.

First, we are strong proponents of consumer choice. Additionally, offering less expensive and greener fuel choices was a way to set our station apart and help the environment. It also helps support our local economy, including the farmers who sell their crops to one of Ohio's seven ethanol plants. Furthermore, higher blends of ethanol help reduce our addiction to foreign oil.

When we first put our pumps in, we did so as an independent station. Later, for various reasons, including our very close proximity to the reconstructed east-west US 24 highway now used by many travelers and businesses from all over the United States and Canada, we wanted to go under a brand. We decided on a brand and as true believers that ethanol and alternative fuels were a part of American Freedom Energy's future, and having seen first-hand how important these fuels are to our rural economy and the economy of the entire state of Ohio, we were not willing to give up our option of consumer choice. After discussions and working with our brand, we reached the agreement in 2023 of moving E15 (Unleaded 88) under the canopy. Now, we have two pumps instead of one outside the canopy. Our fuel sales of E15 (Unleaded 88) have increased 48%, which also relates to our total increase in fuels sales with the blending of Regular 87 octane gasoline.

There are so many benefits to E15 (Unleaded 88). It burns cleaner, is better for engines, higher octane, kinder to the earth, and is less expensive. Additionally, all vehicles 2001 and newer have been approved by the EPA to use it. Our agreement with the brand allowing us to put it under the canopy has benefited both parties, and the consumers are the real winners. We appreciated their understanding of our belief and commitment to not only the ethanol industry but also our friends and community. I would encourage more retailers, even those around me, to consider their own operation to see if it fits their location.

Ohio currently lags far behind other states of similar population in the number of stations that offer our consumers higher ethanol blends. This is a shame given we are also one of the top ethanol producing states in the country, and our ethanol industry helps support more than 5,300 Ohio farmers. House Bill 324 will help steer Ohio and other retailers in the right direction; helping their consumers and communities see the benefits of E15 (Unleaded 88) and higher blends

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to join me in supporting House Bill 324. At this time, I am happy to answer any questions the committee has.

