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GrowthEnergy.org

March 20, 2019

Senator Brownie Carson, Chairman
Rep. Ralph Tucker, Chairman
Senator Robert Foley, Ranking Member
Rep. Richard Campbell, Ranking Member
Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ENR@legislature.maine.gov

RE: LD 822, legislation that would prohibit the sale of gasoline-ethanol blends above 10%

Dear Chairman Carson, Chairman Tucker, and Ranking Members Foley and Campbell:

Thank you for this opportunity to express our strong opposition to legislation to prohibit the sale of gasoline-ethanol blends beyond 10 percent. Growth Energy is the world's largest association of biofuel producers, representing 100 U.S. plants that each year produce more than 8 billion gallons of cleaner-burning, renewable fuel. Together, our members are working to bring better and more affordable fuel choices at the fuel pump to consumers, improve air quality, and protect the environment for future generations. We remain committed to helping our country diversify our energy portfolio to grow more green energy jobs, sustain family farms, and reduce the costs of transportation fuels for consumers.

Today, nearly all gasoline (98 percent) contains ten percent ethanol which has helped to reduce cost and reduce harmful pollutants. E15, a fifteen percent ethanol blend, has also been approved by the U.S. EPA for use in all 2001 and newer passenger vehicles, more than 91 percent of cars on the road today. The fuel currently sells for as much as 10 cents less per gallon compared to regular gasoline and gives consumers a cleaner fuel choice that helps support American farmers. It is important to note that no one is required to sell, blend, or purchase E15, but retailers and consumers alike are doing so in more than 1700 locations in 30 states today. In fact, one of our retail partners, Cumberland Farms, which has 43 locations in Maine has committed to offering E15 at some of their store locations in the near future.

Since introduction, consumers have now run 8 billion miles on E15 with no reported concerns. It is also important to note that E15 has a federally required label (seen below) that limits its sale to only 2001 and newer passenger vehicles; it is not approved for boats, motorcycles, and other non-road engines.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose LD 822 and urge the Committee to reject this attempt to limit choices for Maine consumers. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Bliley
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

