

# **Durbin, Duckworth Issue Statements on E-15 Gasoline Rule**

May 31 2019 4:41 PM



## **Durbin Statement on E15 Gasoline Rule**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, today released the following statement after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule allowing the sale of E15 – gasoline containing as much as 15 percent ethanol—to be sold year-round.

“Though I am pleased the EPA has finally issued this new rule for the sale of E15 gasoline, I remain concerned that the Trump Administration is issuing carve outs for Big Oil by using the small oil refinery exemption. Illinois farmers are increasingly frustrated with continually shouldering the economic burdens of decisions made by this

Administration. If we want to truly help Illinois farmers with this new rule, then the Administration shouldn't be bowing to special interests with exemptions that undercut the premise of E15 gasoline sales," Durbin said.

In February, Durbin sent a letter to the EPA urging the agency to finalize the E15 rule. Durbin urged for a more expeditious effort to complete the new rule by this summer, as President Trump's government shutdown created a month-long delay with the EPA rulemaking process. The rule change directly affects Illinois farmers who are growing increasingly frustrated under the President's trade policies, which have impacted their ability to plan ahead and be reliable sellers to their export partners.

### **Duckworth Statement on E15 Rule Changes**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), a long-time advocate for the Renewable Fuel Standard and the sale of E15 year-round, released the following statement in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of the E15 rule, which implements Senator Duckworth's repeated request that the Trump Administration allow drivers to fuel up with gasoline that is blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) year-round:

"I have consistently demanded that the Trump Administration support Illinois farmers by finally allowing for the sale of gasoline that is blended with up to 15 percent of American-grown biofuels. So while I am pleased the EPA finally followed through on my requests, I remain deeply concerned that this rule will do little to help our farmers if the Trump Administration continues to lie to the American people and abuse small refinery exemptions. Bailing out billion dollar oil companies at the expense of hardworking American farmers goes against the goals of the Renewable Fuel Standard program and it hurts the Midwest. Our policies should always benefit hardworking Americans, not be misused to pad the profits of the well-connected and big oil companies."

Last week, Duckworth asked the EPA Office of Inspector General to launch an independent investigation into whether top EPA officials violated the law by inappropriately exempting a number of oil refineries from having to use legally required levels of biofuel. A recent report from Reuters exposed how top EPA officials, including former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, lied to Congress and the American public about why they started granting a large number of waivers to oil refineries, which drove down prices of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINS) to multi-year lows. Duckworth has also called attention to how Trump friend and former Trump White House advisor Carl Icahn may have violated federal law by trying to use his White House position to

influence the application of the Renewable Fuel Standard to benefit a refinery he owns and she has previously asked the FBI and Department of Justice to launch an investigation.

Duckworth has also been a strong supporter of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which supports a \$5 billion biofuel industry in Illinois that employs more than 4,000 people. She has joined farmers across Illinois in urging the EPA to adopt higher ethanol-based fuel requirements and she has been critical of efforts within the Trump Administration to undermine it by shifting the point of obligation for meeting the RFS from oil refiners to blenders.