

May 12, 2026

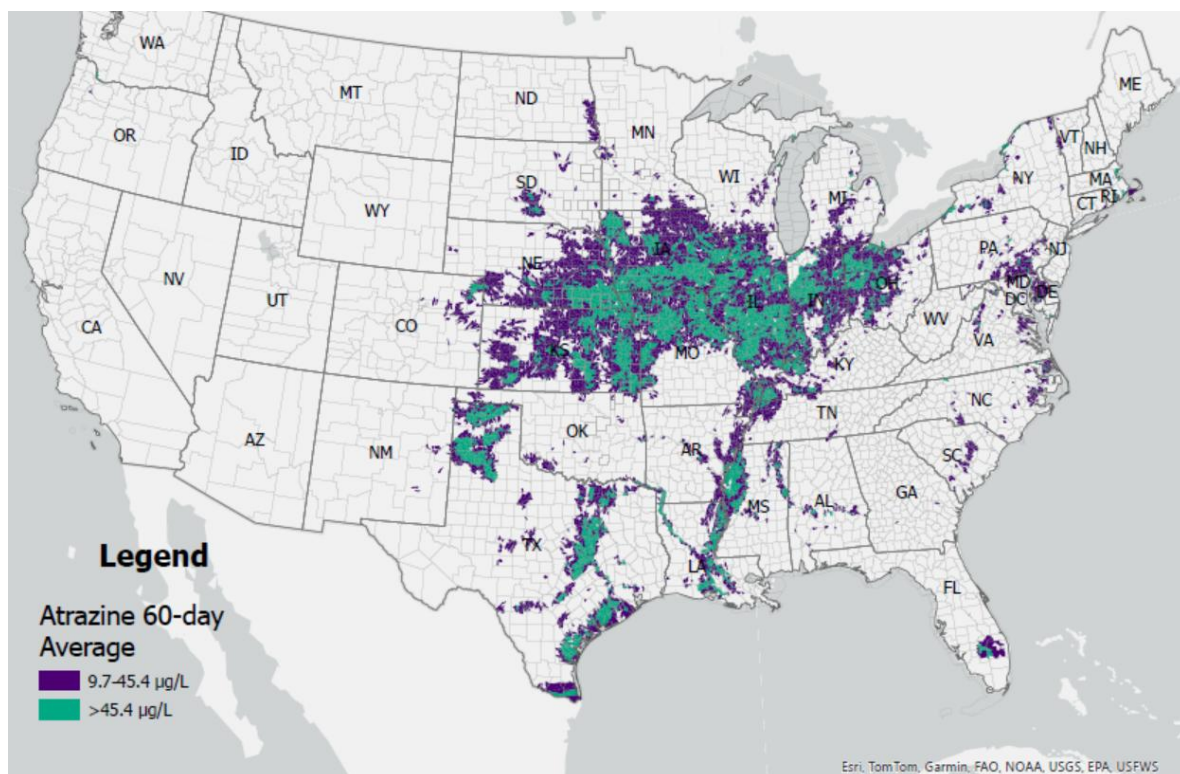
Oppose Legislation Authorizing H.R. 1346 and Year-round 15% Ethanol Use

Dear Representative,

On the behalf of our millions of supporters and members, we recommend that you vote no on H.R. 1346 that would expand year-round use of 15% ethanol (“E15”) mixes in gasoline, including during summer months when E15 exacerbates ground-level ozone formation. Not only would this would worsen smog and harm the air quality of millions of Americans around the nation, the further expansion of higher-blend ethanol would result in massive increases in pesticide use, worsen water and groundwater contamination, and result in further losses of native grassland habitats being converted into commodity-crop production.

First, Congress should be clear that any legislation that authorizes E15 year round then provides the EPA itself and this administration the power to *mandate* E15 year round, a goal it has long advocated for. Mandatory E15 use would drive a major expansion in commodity-crop production, in turn driving a massive increase in pesticide and fertilizer use. Crops grown for ethanol do not need to meet any human health food tolerances or other health standards. Thus mandatory E15 would likely drive a major increase in indiscriminate glyphosate, atrazine, dicamba, and neonicotinoid insecticide usage across the country.

Industrialized commodity-crop production drives further water pollution and contamination problems throughout the nation, but particularly in the Midwest. Nitrate contamination of groundwater drinking supplies is already a substantial problem in countless counties throughout the Midwest, and this will only worsen as fertilizer use increases to meet the additional E15 mandates that would follow passage of legislation authorizing year-round E15. Similarly, the map below illustrates areas where surface water is *already* not meeting the EPA’s benchmark for atrazine contamination:



Authorizing year-round E15 would override key provisions of the Clean Air Act regardless of impacts to air quality from ground-level ozone formation. Congress has always recognized the real danger that E15 poses to human health and air quality and has mandated that the Environmental Protection Agency put air quality first and foremost in any determinations regarding ethanol blends greater than 10 percent. Indeed, the EPA has always limited the use of E15 during the summer months precisely because of ethanol's greater emissions of smog-forming compounds. Overruling science-based approaches to setting clean air standards at the behest of the corn ethanol industry represents profoundly bad policy, whose impacts literally will lead to greater hospitalizations and premature deaths of more Americans.

Expanding E15 ethanol would result in significant harms to our lands and waters. The ever-increasing biofuel requirements set by EPA — already at record high levels — have contributed to the conversion of million acres of grassland and other habitats over the past 20 years. Grassland ecosystems are some of the rarest, most fragmented, and fastest disappearing natural in the United States. Increasing mandates for ever-more ethanol will drive further habitat loss and land conversion, which in turn further exacerbates runoff, top-soil loss and contamination of surface waters including streams, lakes and rivers. Finally, the downstream impacts of worsening water pollution, sedimentation, fertilizer and pesticides all drive further expansions of ocean dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay.

At a time when the current administration's rollbacks of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other safeguards designed to protect people's health against toxic chemicals and pesticides are worsening environmental health and quality across the nation, supporting a non-science based overruling of the longstanding prohibition on summertime E15 would have disastrous results.

For these reasons we urge you to reject legislation that authorizes the use of E15 year-round and instead support long-standing safeguards designed to protect the air we all breathe, our water and our lands. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Animal Wellness Action
Animal Wellness Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for a Humane Economy
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Family Farm Defenders
FOUR PAWS USA
Friends of the Earth
Massachusetts Pollinator Network
New Hampshire Audubon
Ohio River Foundation
Pollinate Minnesota
Re:wild Your Campus

Rockbridge Conservation
Sierra Club, Nebraska Chapter
Species Unite
Western Nebraska Resources Council
Wolf Hollow
Wyoming Untrapped