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Small and Independent Refineries Warn Against Current E15 Expansion Proposals, Outline a Unified Compromise Framework

Refiners announce their collective opposition to the Council's latest E15 proposals and urge stronger protections to safeguard domestic refining capacity and consumer impacts

Washington, D.C. — In a [new letter](#) to the Rural Domestic Energy Council this week, small and independent refiners announced their collective opposition to the Council's latest "compromise" E15 expansion framework and outlined three unified policy solutions that would protect U.S. refining capacity and prevent higher consumer fuel costs.

The Rural Domestic Energy Council convened earlier this month to develop legislative proposals to expand year-round E15 sales while protecting U.S. refining capacity and preventing higher consumer fuel prices. However, early draft frameworks fail to address long-standing challenges with the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and growing concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) unrealistic biofuel proposals for 2026 and 2027, which promise disproportionately high-cost burdens for small- and mid-size refiners and higher gas prices for American consumers.

"The [Council's] proposed E15 framework tilts the scale in favor of the world's largest oil and renewable fuel companies. Additionally, the ethanol lobby has constantly stated its intention to use year-round approval of E15 to pressure policymakers to drive already unachievable ethanol mandates even higher," the refiners wrote. **"As a result, authorizing year-round E15 sales without appropriate checks in place to contain the costs of the ethanol mandate will result in the closure of certain refining facilities, the loss of good-paying jobs, and increased domestic fuel prices."**

The group, representing 27 refining facilities operating in 17 states, announced unified support for an E15 expansion framework that would:

- **Continue to authorize EPA to grant small refinery exemptions under the existing framework**, with no artificial cap on the amount that may be awarded.
- **Prohibit the EPA from increasing annual mandates** through the "reallocation" of exempted small refinery volumes.

- **Limit the annual ethanol mandate** to an amount no higher than the actual consumption from the previous year.

The full letter is available [here](#).

About the Fueling American Jobs Coalition (FAJC)

The Fueling American Jobs Coalition is a coalition of union workers and independent American oil refiners fighting for a commonsense fix to the EPA's flawed Renewable Fuel Standard. The need for significant reform has only grown over the past few years as the cost of purchasing Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) to comply with the RFS has grown increasingly volatile, threatening some refiners' survival. For additional information, visit www.fuelinqsjobs.com.

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