The So-Called E15 Bill Is a Hidden Mandate That **Shifts Costs, Raises Gas Prices, and Threatens U.S. Refining Capacity**

The Senate should reject the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act and unchecked E15 expansion and support reforms to the Renewable Fuel Standard

WHAT THIS DEAL **REALLY DOES**

This proposal locks in high costs. It does not reduce them.

- Makes fewer refineries eligible for Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) relief → higher compliance cost burdens pushed onto mid-sized, independent refiners
- Near elimination of small refinery exemptions (SREs) from the RFS → removes the only mechanism that provides refiners relief and lowers pump prices
- E15 expansion opens the door to higher RFS mandates → drives higher RFS compliance costs across the system

The result is higher costs concentrated on America's remaining independent refiners, facilities that are critical to protecting America's fuel supplies and energy security. It also locks in higher gas prices.

IMPACT ON **GAS PRICES**

This proposal will increase, not decrease, costs for consumers.

- The Renewable Fuel Standard adds more than 30 cents per gallon, with recent estimates reaching 45¢
- Expanding E15, coupled with elimination of SREs, without meaningful reform increases compliance costs
- The RFS acts as a hidden tax on refiners and consumers alike

At a time when affordability is a top concern, this moves policy in the wrong direction.

IMPACT ON **U.S. ENERGY SECURITY**

The U.S. is already operating with reduced refining capacity after multiple closures and years of tightening margins. This proposal adds new cost pressure on the independent refiners that sustain regional fuel supply, pushing some closer to closure or consolidation.

The result is straightforward: weaker domestic fuel production, greater reliance on foreign fuels, and increased vulnerability during supply disruptions.

WHO **BENEFITS**

This proposal tilts the market toward those best positioned to absorb or avoid its costs, large integrated or multinational oil companies, while shifting the burden onto independent refiners:

As flexibility disappears and costs rise, smaller and mid-sized refiners are squeezed out, and consumers are left paying more for gas prices with less security.

VOTE NO ON THE NATIONWIDE CONSUMER AND FUEL RETAILER CHOICE ACT AND UNCHECKED E15/ETHANOL MANDATE EXPANSION WITHOUT MEANINGFUL RFS REFORM