



*President Donald Trump walks with Geoff Cooper, President and Chief Executive Officer of Renewable Fuels Association, right, and Mike Jerke, President and Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy, left, as he tours Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Tuesday, June 11, 2019.  
(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)*

## Dear Mr. President,

One year ago today, you visited Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy in Council Bluffs to join us in celebrating a monumental achievement. At your direction, EPA had just completed regulatory changes finally allowing year-round sales of gasoline containing 15% ethanol—called E15.

This long-awaited move unlocked the door to future demand growth for ethanol and corn. It also meant consumers would have increased access to cleaner and more affordable fuel options at the pump.

Just as expected, the marketplace responded quickly. In the year since the red-tape barrier was removed, E15 sales are up 50%.

But E15 growth would have been exponentially larger if not for your EPA continuing to excuse oil refiners from their legal obligations to blend renewable fuels. As we told you a year ago, EPA's refinery waivers have caused devastating demand losses for ethanol and corn, and they undermine the expansion of E15.

Even after a federal court overturned some refinery waivers in January, your EPA continues to receive dozens of exemption requests from oil companies. EPA is now even considering giving retroactive waivers for years that pre-date your administration.

This needs to stop. It is hurting farmers, costing consumers, and derailing progress on energy and environmental security.

The economic pain in farm country caused by these refinery waivers was compounded this spring—first by the Saudi-Russia oil price war, and then by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this “perfect tsunami,” half of the ethanol industry was recently shut down, leading to layoffs across rural America. The ethanol industry and farmers are hurting like never before.

Mr. President, we need your help. We ask that you stand up for the Renewable Fuel Standard. Please direct your EPA to abide by the January court ruling and end the abuse of the refinery waiver loophole.

You stood by us, farmers, and consumers when you directed EPA to allow year-round E15. Now, we humbly ask that you stand with us again and ensure ethanol demand is not eroded by illegal refinery waivers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Cooper".

**Geoff Cooper**  
President & CEO  
Renewable Fuels Association  
[www.EthanolRFA.org](http://www.EthanolRFA.org)

