

# Stories from the states: What moves Washington and changes policy



**The Renewable Fuel Standard: Managing an Uncertain Public Policy**  
**Nebraska Emerging Issues Forum**  
**April 10, 2014**





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### Oil industry presses White House, Congress to scrap RFS

Jason Plautz, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, April 18, 2013

Executives from 10 refining companies and two major oil industry groups met yesterday with Obama administration officials and members of Congress to urge them to set aside the renewable fuel standard biofuels mandate.

American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard and American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers President Charles Drevna led the group at meetings aimed at rolling back the RFS mandate of blending 36 billion gallons of biofuel into gasoline by 2022.

"We are joining a growing chorus of concerned groups urging Congress to repeal the renewable fuel standard before the mandate potentially puts consumers in harm's way, hurts the economy and disrupts the nation's fuel supply," Gerard said.

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Bipartisan Group of 31 Senators Urges EPA To Revise RFS Proposal

# DEAR OIL INDUSTRY:



Mr. Jack Gerard  
President and CEO  
American Petroleum Institute

Dear Jack:

Isn't life ironic?

Despite the millions of dollars your industry has spent on bogus TV ads, there hasn't been a single reported case of engine damage from ethanol blended fuels like E15. But last week, Exxon admitted selling customers in Louisiana more than 5 million gallons of oil-based gasoline that was so bad that it's been stopping cars dead in their tracks. In fact, one auto shop reported 40 or 50 customers who had trouble starting their engines as a result of Exxon's contaminated gas. That's 40 or 50 more cases of engine problems than have been reported in the entire country from E15, and that's just one shop in Baton Rouge!

Maybe the oil industry should quickly rig another study – like the study the oil companies cooked up to show engine valve damage from E15 by pre-selecting engine types already known to have engine valve problems. That was a good one, Jack. Too bad scientists from America's national laboratories, the U.S. Department of Energy and the EPA did a real study and found no evidence of engine damage from E15 whatsoever.

As if selling tainted gas to thousands of unsuspecting drivers wasn't bad enough, then you had another embarrassing oil spill by one of your member companies in the Houston shipping channel. Isn't that funny? While your ads are misleading people about the impact of ethanol on marine engines, boats in Houston are in dry dock because of your oil spill! In fact, that one company has been fined for 77 different oil spills since 2008, which means they have averaged more than one oil spill per month for the last six years. That's a lot of boaters impacted by oil spills, Jack.

And poor Exxon! They had to cut production at their largest refinery because the oil spill blocked their access to more foreign oil. We're so sad to hear that Exxon was

inconvenienced by the actions of a sea captain who spilled his oil, causing a huge environmental disaster!

Then there was BP's oil spill in Lake Michigan last week, which turned out to be much larger than BP executives first admitted. BP lowballing the size of an oil spill? Knock us over with a feather!

You know what else is ironic, Jack?

How about running ads claiming ethanol is bad for the environment in the same week when you just spilled 20,000 gallons of crude oil into an Ohio nature preserve? Or claiming that ethanol – a clean, renewable fuel – consumes too much land, when current and future tar sands operations will destroy an area the size of Florida? Were you aware, Jack, that the Deepwater Horizon spill polluted an area the size of Oklahoma?

We can go on ... how about the fact that current U.S. crude oil pipelines threaten an area the size of Rhode Island with spills just like the one last week in Ohio. The Exxon Valdez spill impacted an area the size of Massachusetts. The Persian Gulf spill in 1991 affected an area the size of Maryland. Do you get the point?

You see, Jack, the real environmental peril is oil, not renewable fuels like ethanol.

All the best,

Bob Dinneen  
President and CEO  
Renewable Fuels Association

Tom Buis  
CEO  
Growth Energy

PS - We heard that your friend Rex Tillerson from Exxon has joined a lawsuit to block the construction of a water tower "monstrosity" near his house that could be used to support fracking operations. We don't have a dog in the fracking fight, but wouldn't it be great if there was a clean, renewable fuel that was better for our cars, cheaper, and didn't need to be fracked? Hmmm ...

[www.EthanolRFA.org](http://www.EthanolRFA.org)

[www.GrowthEnergy.org](http://www.GrowthEnergy.org)

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## Lots of policy and private activity around the US

- California continues to modify CARB
- Minnesota considering two bills to support advanced biofuels
- South Dakota will use E15 blends in its state vehicle fleet for a six-month trial
- MAPCO to start selling E15 in up to 100 locations nationwide
- In January, Ohio's first retailer began offering E15, E85, E40, E30 and E20
- Propel continues to add E85 stations in California

States matters.

States move Washington.

## Linking stories and states for our benefit

- Engaging state lawmakers and key state groups
  - Broaden the sphere one ring beyond ethanol (eg: Public Affairs Council)
- Making “ethanol voices” heard in Washington:
  - Bringing plant workers to DC
  - Letters and videos from plant workers to federal officials
- Make ethanol policy an issue:
  - Asking tough – and expect good answers – of candidates