STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Governor Tim Walz
75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Michael Regan Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am writing to request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pursuant to Section 211(c)(4)(C)(ii) of the Clean Air Act, exercise its emergency waiver authority to waive the 9-psi Reid vapor pressure (RVP) limitation for gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol (E15) for the 2022 summer ozone control season (June 1 through September 15). This action is necessary to bring cost relief, flexibility, and certainty to the midwestern fuel market. Geopolitical unrest in Ukraine has led to extreme volatility and unprecedented gasoline prices in our state.

Such an emergency waiver is expressly authorized by the statute, would not likely impact air quality in the state, and would result in E15 availability during the summer, which is often a cheaper fuel option at the pump for consumers. Swift action is critical because federal low volatility regulations apply to fuel manufacturers, distributors, resellers, terminal owners, and operators beginning on May 1, 2022.

In recent weeks, E15 retail prices at the pump have typically been $0.05-0.10 per gallon below prices for E10, and $0.60-0.70 per gallon below prices for gasoline with no ethanol. The emergency waiver I am requesting allows fuel retailers to maintain continuity in offering lower-cost E15 to their customers at a time when family budgets are being stretched thin by record high gas prices.

I urge swift action to waive RVP limitations for gasoline blended with E15 for the 2022 summer driving season. Issuance of this waiver will help provide economic relief and increase access to homegrown biofuels. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
Governor

Voice: (651) 201-3400 or (800) 657-3717
Website: http://mn.gov/governor/

MN Relay (800) 627-3529
An Equal Opportunity Employer