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FUELlowa Supports E15 But Opposes RIN Reform in EPA Proposal EPA RIN Reform Proposal Undermines RFS

URBANDALE, Iowa – March 13, 2019 – FUELlowa, the statewide association representing Iowa’s fuel industry, criticizes the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed regulations to reform Renewable Identification Number (RIN) markets but praises EPA for proposing regulations to allow sales of gasoline blended with up to 15% ethanol (E15) year-round.

“It is ironic that EPA would propose changes to expand sales of ethanol while simultaneously proposing reform that would undermine the RFS which was designed to expand biofuel sales,” said Dawn Carlson, CEO of FUELlowa which supports year-round sales of E15. “The RIN reform proposal would disincentivize marketers who are successfully blending with ethanol and biodiesel and be counterproductive to the nation’s pursuit of energy independence.” She encourages all parties interested in the success of the RFS to come together and oppose the RIN market reform proposal.

As CEO of RINAlliance, Carlson knows what she’s talking about. FUELlowa owns RINAlliance, a company that helps marketers (small and large) across the U.S. to achieve success in blending with biofuels and RIN management. EPA’s proposed RIN reform is another attempt to provide a small number of refiners an opportunity to avoid their obligation under the RFS, as they did when EPA granted the small refinery exemptions.

The RIN reform proposal is coupled with a long-awaited proposal to allow E15 sales year-round, which is welcome news to marketers offering E15 and would allow the blend to be sold year-round to all vehicles 2001 and newer. Currently, during summer months (June 1-September 15), sales are not allowed in light of the statute limiting the 1-pound Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver only to E10.

“Expanding the RVP waiver to E15 is welcome news and removes one barrier to increased ethanol sales. The next barrier to overcome is an infrastructure upgrade of 85% of the fuel dispensers, lines, tanks and materials in the state to those certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) as compatible with 15% ethanol.” says Carlson.

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About FUELlowa

FUELlowa represents a diverse membership of fuel distributors, cooperatives, convenience and grocery stores, refiners, biofuel producers and other industry firms. Founded in 1937, the association employs top fuel experts, advocating for innovative and quality fuel options, consumer and environmental protection and fairness in the marketplace.