



New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA)

(Formerly New Jersey Gasoline Retailers Association)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 7, 2011

**Small Business Association Representing Gasoline Retailers Comes
Out Against EPA's E15 Decision**

E15 Decision Will Hurt Gasoline Retail Small Businesses

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (NJGCA), made the following remarks concerning the EPA's decision to allow the sale of gasoline containing 15% ethanol (E15) for vehicles Model Year 2001 or newer:

Risalvato said, "I am extremely concerned about the recent decision by the EPA to allow motor fuel retailers to sell E15 at their stations. By going forward with a decision which separates motorists into different classes, the EPA is setting the stage for confusion, mayhem, and destruction at the pumps at least in the short term. Anyone with the least bit of foresight can see the problems E15 will cause. Though E15 is only supposed to be used in cars from 2001 or later, it won't be long before natural human error starts to cause serious mistakes. As a variety of auto manufacturers recently made clear, the wrong use of fuel will damage engines, void warranties, and reduce fuel efficiency."

"In New Jersey, where all gas must be pumped by station employees, there is simply no amount of training that will eliminate human error, especially among gas station attendants working busy shifts. It won't be long after before disgruntled motorists are lawyering up against these small business owners after an employee forgot to check what the model year on the car he was filling up was."

“There are over 15,000 people in the state of New Jersey alone who are employed by gasoline stations. These are crucial jobs for low-skilled employees, many of whom are either still in school or immigrants to this country. A simple sticker on the pump is not going to prevent these mistakes from occurring, and when they do the consequences will be severe for the consumer, the attendant, and the small businessman.”

Risalvato continued “If there’s anyone in this state, or even this country, who should be pushing for more ethanol use, it’s me. I have been a staunch advocate of ethanol for the past several decades. As a young gas station owner, I lost a lot of money investing in ethanol when it was ahead of its time. If I had a magic wand, I would totally eliminate the use of gasoline and have everyone drive on E100. But like the rest of us I must, unfortunately, live in the real world. I simply cannot support the sale of E15 at gas stations until we find a way to have a safe harbor for the small businesses dispensing the fuel, and for those technicians who repair motor vehicles; the risk to small business owners is too great.”

“With the economy the way it is, the last thing that small business owners need is one more axe hovering above their head, ready to fall at any time” Risalvato concluded.

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