



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Ranking Member Pallone:

In November, I wrote to you urging swift action to provide market certainty for Illinois and Midwest farmers. Now, five months later, I elevate that request as conditions continue to deteriorate. Mounting pressure on the agriculture economy can be traced directly back to recent federal policy decisions. From the devastating effects of tariffs to the manufactured war with Iran, Illinois farmers are being forced to shoulder rising costs while losing export markets to foreign competitors.

With 20% of the world's daily petroleum shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, global instability is contributing to supply chain issues that have further driven up costs for fuel, fertilizer and other inputs. These increases put additional strain on farmers already operating within tight margins. In October, I declared an Agricultural Trade Crisis in Illinois and directed state agencies to expand domestic market opportunities.

Expanding year-round E15 sales would increase the need for ethanol, broadening domestic markets for corn and supporting Illinois and Midwest farmers enduring shrinking foreign markets. Ethanol is the fastest growing market for corn, and higher blends of ethanol reduce our dependency on foreign petroleum.

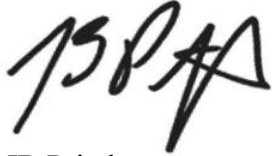
In response to growing challenges, my administration has already invested significantly in E15 infrastructure, positioning our state for continued expansion of the industry. Projections indicate that year-round E15 could increase ethanol demand by 4.5 billion gallons between 2021 and 2035,

resulting in an additional 1.5 billion bushels of corn demand. At a time when farmers are still awaiting meaningful trade relief and facing elevated input costs, this kind of market expansion would provide tangible, short-term support and position Illinois as a national leader in renewable fuels.

It was recently announced that President Trump has lifted the summer ethanol ban, which will bring temporary relief. However, relying on administrative action does not provide the long-term certainty that farmers, producers, fuel retailers and consumers need.

Experience has shown, after years of successfully executing these rolling waivers, that the infrastructure, both physical capacity and supply chain, is in place to handle E15 year-round. We must work to remove this regulatory roadblock. I respectfully urge you to support legislation that ensures the permanent, nationwide availability of year-round E15. Doing so would provide certainty to the market, strengthen rural economies, and reinforce America's commitment to domestic energy production.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", written over a light gray rectangular background.

JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois

CC:

The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Jonathan Jackson [IL-01]
The Honorable Nikki Budzinski [IL-13]
The Honorable Eric Sorensen [IL-17]