



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR
SUZETTE MARTINEZ
VALLADARES
REPRESENTING DISTRICT 23



DAVID ALVAREZ
Assemblymember, District 80

September 9, 2026

Lauren Sanchez, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Proposed E15 Regulations

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the California Legislative Problem Solvers Caucus, we write in support of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) proposed amendments to California's Reformulated Gasoline regulations to facilitate the introduction of gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) into the California market.

The Problem Solvers Caucus has been actively engaged in this effort from the beginning. As a bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators focused on advancing practical solutions to challenges facing Californians, the Caucus sponsored AB 30 to remove the statutory barrier to the sale of E15 and provide California consumers access to an additional, potentially lower-cost fuel option.

Following enactment of AB 30, the Caucus remained engaged as the State moved toward implementation. When it became clear that an additional regulatory hurdle involving the Office of the State Fire Marshal could delay or prevent E15 from reaching California fueling stations, the Caucus sponsored subsequent cleanup legislation to address that issue and help ensure the policy approved by the Legislature could be effectively implemented. CARB's proposed regulations represent the next critical step in that process, and we appreciate the thoughtful and comprehensive approach reflected in the draft.

We support CARB's proposed amendments to Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, including Sections 2260, 2261, 2262, 2265, and 2266.5, which integrate E15 into California's existing reformulated gasoline regulatory framework. Rather than creating an entirely separate regulatory structure for E15, the proposal appropriately builds upon California's existing fuel quality, emissions, blending, certification, and compliance requirements.

We also appreciate that the proposal establishes a clear pathway to produce E15 using California Reformulated Gasoline and California Reformulated Gasoline Blendstock for Oxygenate Blending (CARBOB). The proposed amendments to Sections 2265 and 2266.5 are particularly important in providing the regulatory framework necessary for refiners and fuel

suppliers to produce compliant E15 while continuing to meet California's stringent emissions and fuel-quality requirements.

These provisions reflect the balance the Legislature sought when it acted on AB 30: removing unnecessary barriers to E15 while maintaining California's strong environmental and public health protections.

CARB's proposal is also the product of an extensive multimedia evaluation and interagency process examining the potential impacts of E15 on air quality, water, soil, public health, vehicles, and fueling infrastructure. We appreciate the work CARB and its partner agencies have undertaken to ensure implementation is supported by a thorough technical review.

At a time when Californians continue to face some of the highest gasoline prices in the nation, we should continue pursuing practical opportunities to increase fuel supply, expand consumer choice, and reduce costs at the pump. Making E15 available to California consumers is one such opportunity.

The Legislature has acted to remove the statutory barrier. The Caucus has worked to address the remaining State Fire Marshal implementation hurdle. CARB's adoption of these regulations is an important final component of that collective effort.

The California Legislative Problem Solvers Caucus strongly supports CARB's proposed E15 regulations and respectfully urges the Board to adopt them at its September 24 meeting so California can move forward with timely implementation.

We appreciate CARB staff's continued work on this important issue and look forward to working with CARB, the Administration, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and other state agencies to make E15 available to California consumers as quickly and responsibly as possible.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember David Alvarez
Co-Chair, California Legislative
Problem Solvers Caucus



Senator Suzette Valladares
Co-Chair, California Legislative
Problem Solvers Caucus

cc: CARB Board Clerk
Dr. Steve Cliff, Executive Director
Susie Chung, Staff Air Pollution Specialist
Patrick Houlihan, Manager, Fuels Specification Section