



**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY  
HOUSE FILE 3651**

**MARCH 18, 2026  
HOUSE PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs Novotny and Moller, Members of the Committee:

Growth Energy is the nation's largest association of biofuel producers, representing 97 U.S. plants that each year produce more than 9.5 billion gallons of cleaner-burning, renewable fuel, including eight biorefineries in Minnesota. We also represent 128 businesses—including twelve associate members in Minnesota—associated with the production process; and tens of thousands of biofuel supporters around the country. Together, we remain committed to bringing better and more affordable choices at the fuel pump to consumers, helping our country diversify our energy portfolio in order to grow more energy jobs, sustaining family farms, and driving down the costs of transportation fuels for consumers with a lower carbon fuel.

For nearly thirty years, Minnesota has been a leader in offering ethanol-blended fuels. It was the first state to require ethanol in fuel in 1997. Recently, the state has frequently led the nation in annual ethanol blend rate, selling more ethanol as a percentage of its total fuel sales than any other state in America. Much of the sales responsible for this nation-leading statistic are comprised of E15, a fuel containing up to 15 percent bioethanol.

E15 is approved for all 2001 and newer vehicles, more than 96 percent of all light duty vehicles on the road today. Most vehicles require a minimum octane rating of 87. Bioethanol, with an octane rating of 113, helps meet that in modern cars. Bioethanol is a cleaner, renewable, and cost-effective alternative to toxic chemicals like lead and MTBE.<sup>1</sup> Consumers have now driven more than 205 billion miles on E15, and retailers have conducted millions of transactions with this fuel. There have been no adverse reports of fuel quality experienced with E15 since first being approved 16 years ago.

Minnesota has the potential to expand its E15 sales and retake its status in the country as the leading biofuels state. However, inequitable language in Minnesota Statute that regulates the approval of retail dispensing equipment for fuels with higher ethanol content is slowing down efforts to do so. For fuel dispensing equipment, language in the State Fire Code is at odds with and more restrictive—unnecessarily—than regulatory language of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA allows approval of dispensing equipment that has been approved and listed the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or by a manufacturer's statement of compatibility. The State Fire Code will *only* accept UL certification, despite the federal Environmental Protection Agency's own

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<sup>1</sup> <https://growthenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/GBIO-24100-Engine-Performance-2024-11-12-R2-1.pdf>

regulations, based on extensive work conducted by the Department of Energy's then-named National Renewable Energy Laboratory, on equipment approval also allowing a manufacturer's statement to suffice.<sup>2</sup>

Growth Energy strongly supports House File 3651, which would eliminate this regulatory inconsistency and remove a barrier to providing greater access of a cleaner burning, more environmentally beneficial to Minnesota drivers.

Additionally, increased E15 access also give consumers more affordable choices at the pump. Earlier this year, drivers in Minnesota saw as much as 52 cents per gallon in savings when compared to E10.<sup>3</sup> These economic benefits of increased E15 availability to Minnesota consumers could be even more pronounced as the price of oil increases if the current instability in the Middle East and Iran's actions to disrupt the global energy market continues.

Breaking down this regulatory barrier will also help Minnesota bioethanol producers and the state's corn growers. At a time when American farmers are facing a 25% decrease in farm incomes, Minnesota corn growers can benefit from the increased demand for their crop resulting from the passage of HF 3651.

Given our experience with retailers around the country offering E15, we are happy to assist the committee with technical questions as they consider this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to finalize this important benefit for Minnesota drivers, fuel retailers and farmers. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Bliley  
Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs  
Growth Energy

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<sup>2</sup> [https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/e15\\_infrastructure.pdf](https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/e15_infrastructure.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://growthenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ADVO-26008-E15-More-Savings-at-the-Pump-Growth-for-Americas-Economy-2026-01-30-R1.pdf>