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CONTACT

Jesse Dougherty

jdougherty@strategicelements.com

608-807-8619

**Fuel Choice Coalition on Senate Subcommittee Meeting:
The Government Fuel Mandate is a Tax on Consumers and Bad Deal for Iowans**

Coalition states that Iowa knows how to grow biofuels without a mandate that will place a tax on consumers and major restrictions on retailers

Urbandale, IA – The Fuel Choice Coalition—a unified voice of Iowa fuel distributors, retailers, wholesalers, and transportation groups—responded to the Senate subcommittee meeting taking place at the Iowa State Capitol.

“There is no route for Iowa lawmakers to improve the fuel marketplace by outright banning fuel types and placing restrictions meant to confuse consumers,” **said Jason McDermott, Owner of McDermott Oil Company.** “We are effectively putting a tax on consumers to play favorites at the pump and our economy will be harmed as a result. Private investments and incentives will grow higher blends across the state. Mandates will run businesses into the ground.”

Coalition members have been quick to point out that recent [data shows E15 sales in Iowa increased by 24 percent last year](#), despite an overall decrease in fuel consumption. In neighboring Minnesota - which has an ethanol mandate on the books - E15 sales decreased by 4% last year. Since this bill makes selling regular unleaded gasoline illegal, Iowans who want to buy gasoline without ethanol will end up paying on average [more than 50 cents per gallon](#).

“The core of each iteration of this bill has been the same; a mandate on both consumers and retailers paired with more unnecessary regulation. The results are obvious,” **added Drew Klein, State Director for Americans for Prosperity – Iowa.** “Access to fuel in rural parts of the state will be diminished, choices for consumers will be restricted and prices at the pump will increase even further. Central planning doesn't work.”

The amended version of the fuel mandate – HF 859/SF 549 – forces retailers to place labels on pumps that will mislead consumers on the eligibility of non-ethanol gasoline. Further, this amendment contains a full exemption of off-road usage from the mandate - meaning that the very farmers set to benefit from

this mandate will not need to abide by it in their own usage.

About the Fuel Choice Coalition

The Fuel Choice Coalition is a unified voice of Iowa fuel distributors, retailers, wholesalers, and transportation groups that support Iowans' choices at the pump including with higher blended fuels, and fair markets for fuel distribution. The group opposes any government mandate that attempts to pick winners and losers at the pump and instead supports a focus on improving the infrastructure to truly sell higher-blended fuels. Members of the coalition include:

- A.B.A.T.E. of Iowa
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- Americans for Prosperity – Iowa
- Casey's
- FUELlowa
- Iowa Motor Truck Association
- Iowa Motorcycle Dealers Association
- Kum & Go
- Kwik Star
- Truckstops of Iowa

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