## Ohio Attorney General joins fight for year-round E15 ethanol fuel sales

## ву Anna Staver Cleveland.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has joined the fight for yearround access to an ethanol fuel blend that could lower gas prices.

"Ohio's motorists, farmers and energy providers all stand to gain from this proposal," Yost said in a statement. "It's good for our state's economy, and it's a key step toward energy independence for our country."

E15 or "Unleaded 88" contains 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline. That's more than the 10% ethanol found in most traditional blends.

Cars manufactured after 2001 can fill up with E15, but the Clean Air Act prohibits sales during the summer without a waiver from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

Ohio is one of eight states with a waiver, which is why you use those blue pumps in June, July and August.

Yost and the other attorneys general say the summertime restrictions and emergency waivers create headaches for oil refineries.

Gov. Mike DeWine wrote to the EPA about the issue in January.

Ohio ranks 7th in the nation for ethanol production. The state has seven biorefineries, and about 40% of the corn Ohio farmers grow gets converted into fuel.

"As a federal legislative fix has not come to fruition, we have continued to hear concerns from Ohio's petroleum industry about their ability to install the necessary infrastructure," according to DeWine's letter.

Access to Unleaded 88 is also limited--even in states like Ohio where sales are legal year round.

The Ohio Corn & Wheat Association says just 215 gas stations carry the fuel because investing in new pumps can be cost prohibitive.

Republicans introduced House Bill 324 in 2023. The bill would have created a tax credit for gas station owners who wanted to add an E15 pump.

It passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in February 2024 but didn't get through the Senate.