

October 9, 2018

National Conference of Weights and Measures
Submitted via email: info@ncwm.net

RE: Opposition to FLR-8 Section 3.2.5. Prohibition of Terms

The North Dakota Ethanol Producers Association (NDEPA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal to restrict product terms for gasoline/ethanol blends, specifically the consideration of: FLR-8 Section 3.2.5. Prohibition of Terms submitted by the Petroleum Marketers Association of America. We ask for the immediate withdrawal of this item from consideration due to the lack of technical, regulatory or commercial justification for the prohibition of product terms for gasoline with greater than 10 percent ethanol.

The NDEPA represents the five ethanol plants in North Dakota, which collectively process nearly 200 million bushels of corn into 523 million gallons of ethanol. The Association is commenting on behalf of our facilities and dozens of other businesses and hundreds of employees that help operate the ethanol industry in North Dakota. North Dakota's ethanol industry has a \$623 million annual direct economic impact. It processes 40 percent of the state's average corn crop and produces one and half million tons of dried distillers grains for use by livestock producers.

The EPA has approved sales of higher ethanol blends like Unleaded 88, which, if not summarily restricted, could allow an estimated one billion gallons of ethanol into the fuel market. This volume represents approximately 357 million bushels of corn, just under the total size of North Dakota's annual corn crop.

North Dakota's economy is dependent on agriculture. With increasing productivity, farmers and related businesses, rely on consistent and expanding markets for the products they grow. We have seen great success with the current dispenser labeling, which meets or exceeds current labeling requirements. Customers are very satisfied with the new "Unleaded 88" and other label offerings. Consideration of a prohibition on pump labeling is unwarranted.

NDEPA thanks you for considering its **opposition to FLR-8 Section 3.2.5. Prohibition of Terms.**

Sincerely,

Gerald Bachmeier, *President*
Red Trail Energy, LLC
701-974-3308
gerald@redtrailenergy.com

Ryan Thorpe, *Vice President*
Tharaldson Ethanol Plant
701-347-4000
rthorpe@tharaldsonco.com

Randy Schneider, *Sec./Treas.*
randyschneidercpa@yahoo.com
701-426-4994

Jeff Zueger, *Director*
Blue Flint Ethanol/
Dakota Spirit AgEnergy
701-442-7501
jzueger@midwestagenergy.com

Tracey Olson, *Director*
Hankinson Renewable Energy
952-465-0223
tracey.olson@guardianNRG.com