

Letter to the Editor: Ethanol is 'proactive approach' to energy needs, EPA should listen to consumers

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent proposal to reduce the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for ethanol will have serious negative consequences for Michigan's consumers, families and communities.

Ethanol is good for Michigan families because it drives down the price of gas at the pump, saving all of us money. According to researchers at Iowa State University, the average U.S. consumer saved \$1.09 per gallon of gas in 2011. That adds up to \$1,200 saved every year.

Michigan's communities also benefit from the economic activity that's generated because of ethanol production in our state. Ethanol can be made right here in our communities from corn grown by local farmers. That translates into jobs, investment and new business in Michigan.

Ethanol is a long-term, environmentally friendly solution to our energy needs. It is important to take a proactive approach to reasonably priced energy with alternatives like ethanol. Brazil's entrance into ethanol 40 years ago has allowed them to be one of the lowest cost energy users in the world.

The EPA's proposal would mean higher gas prices, lost jobs and less economic opportunity for Michigan. The EPA should listen to consumers and keep the RFS intact.

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