



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

May 2, 2019

The 129th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129th Legislature:

Under the authority invested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 822, An Act To Prohibit the Sale of Motor Fuel Containing More than 10% Ethanol.

This bill has two parts. The first prohibits the sale of motor fuel products in the State that contain ethanol greater than 10% unless the sale of such fuel is in a sealed container that contains one quart or less of the motor fuel. The second part would ban corn-based ethanol in motor fuel if 2 states and Maine adopt such a ban.

The ethanol content of fuel is not required, nor regulated, by the Department of Environmental Protection. Today's gasoline contains ethanol primarily because of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, an EPA-administered program that requires transportation fuel sold in the United States to contain a minimum volume of renewable fuels.

Although gasoline containing 10 percent ethanol, or E10, is the most common type of motor vehicle fuel under the Renewable Fuel Standard, EPA also allows the use of motor fuel containing up to 15% ethanol in 2001 model year and newer passenger and flex-fuel vehicles. The use of E15 is prohibited in older light-duty motor vehicles, and all heavy-duty gasoline vehicles and engines, motorcycles and gasoline-powered equipment such as lawn and garden equipment and boats.

E15 is not currently sold in Maine, and, as of now, there is insufficient scientific evidence or data to support the claim that it adversely impacts health. A 2016 study conducted jointly by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Environmental Protection concluded that "there does not appear to be any significant health impacts from the widespread use of E10 gasoline. The potential health impacts of fuel with much higher blends of ethanol have been less well studied." Without sufficient study, and given this fuel is not currently sold in Maine, I am not prepared for the state to declare a ban. However, if new and reputable scientific evidence emerges that higher levels of ethanol in fuel do in fact adversely impact health, I will be happy to revisit and reconsider this legislation.

For these reasons, I return LD 822 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Janet T. Mills.

Janet T. Mills
Governor
State of Maine