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ADVANCING AMERICAN FREEDOM
FOUNDATION

Why is There Corn in My Car's Gas Tank?

TOPLINE: The renewable fuel standard (RFS) is an outdated government mandate that requires that your car's gas contains a minimum amount of "renewable fuels, mostly corn ethanol. **This policy is outdated, increases the price of groceries, and should be repealed.**

RFS is an outdated government regulation:

- Congress first passed the RFS in 2005, before the Shale and Fracking revolution fundamentally changed America's oil and gas industry for the better.
 - At the time, the US was a net importer of oil products.
- **Today, the U.S. is a net exporter of oil products and produces three times the oil we did when RFS started.** We no longer need corn in our gas tanks.

RFS increases the cost of gas and grocery prices while doing little to lower the price of fuel:

- From 2014-2023, "Americans spent **\$28 billion more on ethanol** than the same amount of energy from gasoline would have cost" [according to R Street](#).
- **RFS increases the price of gas by ~30 cents a gallon.**
 - **CONTEXT:** The federal gas tax is **18.4 cents**.
- **40% of American-grown corn** is turned into ethanol meaning that it cannot be used for other purposes, such as feeding animals or different corn grown altogether to feed American families.
 - **READ MORE:** [WSJ: The Ethanol Gasoline Tax](#)

Americans don't need the government picking winners and losers:

- **EPA Administrator Zeldin announced** "We are creating a new system that **benefits American farmers**" when announcing the 2026-27 RFS requirements.
- The government should not be writing regulations **to benefit one industry at the expense of the American people.**
- We do not need the government to pick winners and losers.

BOTTOMLINE: Corn is for feeding American families and livestock, not fueling our vehicles. We have oil for that. **Congress should stop telling Americans what they can put in their car's gas tanks by immediately repealing the renewable fuel standard.**



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