



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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BOATER BRIEF

Ethanol

The House of Representatives approved an amendment to federal spending legislation (HR 1) that prohibits the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using funding from this fiscal year to implement its waiver on the introduction of fuels containing 15% ethanol (E-15). The amendment's sponsor, Rep. John Sullivan, R-Okla., noted that the amendment "ensures consumer safety plain and simple." The next step appears to be the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee, which anticipates holding hearings in April to review the renewable fuels policy.

Therefore, it does not appear boaters need to be concerned about E-15 in the foreseeable future, but fuels containing 10% ethanol are being used every day. These fuels are corrosive and can damage gasoline engines. See RBOC's "Ethanol Special" Boater Brief at www.rbo.org for additional information regarding ethanol.

Boaters are encouraged to keep up-to-date on BoatU.S.'s leadership efforts on this issue. Visit: www.boatus.com/gov/EthanolInformationPage.asp

Copper Bottom Paint

California Senate Bill SB 623 proposes to make it unlawful to manufacture, sell or distribute marine anti-fouling paints containing copper in the State of California as of January 1, 2015.

RBOC has adopted a position in opposition to this legislation unless the bill

is amended to ensure that any deadline precluding the use of copper-based anti-fouling paints does not occur until there are alternatives that are effective, available, and affordable.

RBOC has informed Senator Kehoe that the deadline of January 1, 2015, is unconditional and arbitrary. RBOC states that SB 623 as now proposed "fails to help those who will be most significantly impacted by its provisions: the boating public. RBOC also notes the bill "fails to acknowledge the significant boater efforts to assist in the development and testing of alternatives, the important role of boaters' use of anti-fouling paints containing copper in protecting against invasive species, and the impact of the proposed ban on the boating public."

RBOC is engaged in negotiations with Senator Kehoe in an effort to resolve our concerns.

California Boating and Waterways

Efforts to address the state budget deficit could directly affect the Department of Boating & Waterways (Cal Boating). Senate Bill 69, the Conference Committee version of the Budget Bill, does not include funding for facilities loans or grants. Further, the budget bills in contention would provide another loan from our boater monies in the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving fund (HWRF) to the State General Fund. This new loan would be for \$17 million, to be repaid by June 30, 2014.

Previous loans from the HWRF to the General Fund were made in the amount of \$29 million (fiscal year 2008-2009, to be repaid by June 30, 2013) and \$5 million (fiscal year 2009-2010) with no repay-

ment date. The total for all three loans would be \$51 million.

General Issues

The 2011-2012 legislative sessions are underway. To date, a total of 2,300 bills have been introduced and most of these measures are being set for their initial hearings in the policy committees in the Senate and Assembly. Concurrently with the consideration of these bills the Governor and Legislature are working to address the state budget and a projected \$26.6 billion deficit over the next 15 months. This deficit will place a great deal of pressure on many programs throughout the state.

Be assured, RBOC will persist in our lobbying efforts on legislation. Subjects to receive special attention will include, but not be limited to: (A) boater access to navigable waterways, (B) safety, (C) bottom paints, (D) ethanol, (E) issues regarding water quality in marinas, and (F) any matter that would increase boating cost.

Support RBOC

RBOC represents all California boaters and operates solely on donations from boaters like YOU! We need your help. All boaters are encouraged to donate \$20 per boating family per year, but all donations are needed and appreciated. Please send your contributions to: RBOC, 925 L Street – Ste. 220, Sacramento, CA 95814-3703 **OR** donations may be made on-line at www.rbo.org using American Express, Discover, Visa, PayPal, or MasterCard. Donations are not tax deductible due to RBOC's extensive lobbying efforts.