

National Boating Federation
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Legislation to Repeal or Reform the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS): I have attended a number of meetings in DC with Congressmen about the RFS mandate. The RFS mandates that **36 billion** gallons of ethanol be pumped into our fuel supply by 2022. Several bills are being considered, primarily the bills introduced by Rep. Goodlatté (R-VA-6) on reforming or repealing the RFS mandate. The purpose of the meetings was to decide on the best strategy, which bill to support, try to have hearings scheduled in the Energy & Power Subcommittee and obtain more co-sponsors of the bills. There were two meetings Monday, March 24. One was in Congressman Woodall's office (R-GA) and the second in Cong. Holding's office (R-NC-13). Tuesday the third meeting was held in Cong. Jones's office. The fourth meeting was held Wednesday with Cong. Coble (R-NC-6).

Meeting participants in each office, including Congressional staff personnel, were from a number of organizations including: the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM), National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR), DARDEN, American Meat Institute and the National Turkey Breeders Federation (TBF). Comments varied at each meeting but I will summarize some of the more significant ones. Most agreed that Reform (H.R. 1462) of the RFS has a better chance of passage than Repeal (H.R. 1461). There are 57 co-sponsors of Reform and 80 co-sponsors of Repeal. Michael Birsic, representing AFPM, stated that due to the “Blend Wall” requirement for ethanol (7-10-15%) that we are “running out of space for the blend wall” of ethanol with gasoline. This is a function of the yearly volume of gas consumption expected for that year and thus the amount of ethanol blended in, which determines the percentage of ethanol blended in for that year. The TBF indicated a number of their businesses have closed down due to increased cost of feed due to rising corn prices. Scott Vinson of the NCCR stated: There has been a \$3.2B annual increase in food prices due to the rise in corn prices and its use in the production of ethanol; thus the increased cost of meals at their restaurants.

I went back to DC for a private meeting with Jeff Vanderslice; the Legislative Director for Congressman Rohrabacher (R-48th-CA). He found out about the National Boating Federation (NBF) from an article he read in the NBF eBulletin. He then emailed me that he would like to have a meeting to find out more about NBF since there are a lot of boaters in Southern CA and it appeared from what he read in the article that NBF is taking actions that are favorable to the boating community. I explained basically what we do, our objectives/priorities, provided copies of our brochure, a list of our member organizations nationwide which includes the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Assoc. which is in his District and that we have close to two million individual members. When I explained our work on HR 1461 that would Repeal the RFS and HR 1462 that would Reform the RFS, he indicated that Congressman Rohrabacher had already signed on to H.R.1461 as a co-sponsor. I thanked him, and now we have 80 cosponsors on H.R. 1461. Also Jeff will let me know when the Energy and Power Subcommittee will schedule a hearing on the bill.

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