

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION  
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**Poll Finds Americans are Against the Corn-Ethanol Mandate:** As reported by NMMA, a recent poll sponsored by the American Motorcyclist Assoc. (AMA) shows that the majority of Americans do not support increasing the levels of ethanol in our fuel supply. This poll, conducted by Lake Research Partners and Bellwether Research and Consulting, found that likely 2016 voters are concerned about the unintended consequences of corn-ethanol and support the EPA's decision to set ethanol volumes lower than what is required by law. Anti-ethanol feeling is bi-partisan, with 68% of Democrats and 71% of Republicans supporting volumes lower than statute. "Voters across party lines express grave concerns for the impacts of the corn-ethanol mandate from the Renewable Fuel Standard that touch many parts of their lives, from the cars they drive to the food they buy" reported Lake Research Partners President Celinda Lake. "They strongly support bipartisan proposals that would reduce the impact of corn-ethanol, and particularly support the EPA reducing the amount of ethanol required by law."

NMMA applauds the AMA for their sponsorship of this poll, which provides an accurate picture of the American people's feelings toward a corn-ethanol mandate. "We commissioned this poll to better qualify and quantify the reactions Americans have towards the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's continuing effort to mandate more ethanol in our fuel each year," stated Sen. Wayne Allard, AMA's Vice President of Government Relations. "The results prove that, just like our members, rank and file Americans have serious concerns about the damaging and far-reaching effects of excessive ethanol production and that they support efforts to reign in this misdirected federal policy."

**Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF):** The House and Senate both passed the Highway Trust Fund, H.R. 22, which includes the SFRBTF. This is yet another extension of the current law, which provides funding for highway, bridge and mass transit projects, until October 29. President Obama said he will sign the legislation which ensures the states will receive reimbursements for their transit projects. The Senate also voted 65-34 to pass a six-year highway bill. This is in response to complaints by the states that they are unable to plan and construct major projects since Congress keeps passing bills that fund transportation projects for only a few months at a time. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> short-term extension that Congress has passed since 2009.

The SFRBTF which is financed by taxes on motorboat fuel, fishing equipment and imported boats, together generates around \$600 million a year. The program has significant benefits to the recreational boating community and commercial interests. Some of these are: the Coastal Wetlands Act, Recreational Boating Safety (USCG), Clean Vessel Act (pump-out stations), the Sport Fish Restoration Program and the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. The BIG program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which receives approximately 2% of the Trust Fund annually. Applications for grants under the BIG Program, when approved, are used to construct, renovate and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters 26 feet or more in length. Applicants may apply for grants by contacting the specific **WSFR Office** or apply online at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

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