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House Members Question EPA on Ethanol Increase: In a letter sent to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, 45 members of the House of Representatives questioned the agency about what it has done to protect boat owners and other small-engine equipment consumers from accidentally misfueling with E15 and higher blends of ethanol. The bipartisan letter, spearheaded by the National Marine Manufacturers Association, requests pertinent information about the agency's consumer outreach efforts to date and what plans the agency has to better educate consumers in the future. The letter came in response to increasing ethanol mandates from the EPA — with more E15 expected on the market, more needs to be done to ensure that marine engines are not damaged because of misfueling. "Congress will continue to seek a permanent solution, but until then it is imperative that EPA take upon itself the responsibility to reduce the likelihood of widespread fueling mistakes associated with E15," wrote the members of Congress. A label between the price and octane level at this pump tells consumers the fuel is not blended with ethanol.

The EPA proposed in May raising ethanol levels in the overall fuel supply for 2017. The NMMA is asking industry stakeholders to weigh in during the public comment period, which lasts until July. "It's important to voice up as an industry and show that we are concerned about the proposal as it was written, and we're calling on the EPA to lower volume numbers before they finalize the rule later this year," Michael Lewan, NMMA grassroots and government relations manager, told Trade Only Today. Lewan said the group is urging people to use the Boating United website to take quick action via an already prepared letter. Members of the boating industry should also use the election season as an opportunity to discuss ethanol issues with legislators because they are spending additional time locally to campaign for re-election, Lewan said.

Bill Introduced in U.S. House of Representatives to Authorize eLoran: Representative Hunter (R-CA) introduced the **Miscellaneous Maritime Transportation Act of 2016** (HR 5531) to amend title 46, United States Code, to improve maritime transportation, and for other purposes. (6/26/16). Note: The primary provision of this bill authorizes the United States Coast Guard to construct and maintain an enhanced Loran system. This is a major step forward in the process of re-establishing a backup for the vital but vulnerable Global Positioning System (GPS). Much of Europe and Asia still have operational Loran systems, so when this bill passes, this is indeed good news for the boating community.

Given the vulnerability of GPS, the National Boating Federation has long been an advocate of having enhanced Loran as a backup to and complement for the existing GPS system. Enhanced Loran (**eLoran**), is a terrestrial based navigation system versus GPS, which is satellite based. Robert Lilley, Ph. D., former Director of the International Loran Association, has also long been an advocate for maintaining a Loran system.

Message from Boating United to the EPA: Thanks to you, and an overwhelming amount of support from your industry peers, Boating United sent the EPA a loud and clear message to dial back its proposed increase to 2017 ethanol mandates. More than 2500 comments were submitted to the EPA, along with thousands of letters to Capitol Hill. **And already we are seeing your efforts pay off.**

Our message was spread by many media outlets. Our call to action was echoed by multiple organizations and countless supporters. **And, the bill you asked your Representatives to support, H.R. 5180, has 101 co-sponsors, nearly quadruple the amount it had just five weeks ago!**

So thanks to everyone for taking the time to participate in this effort. We will be sure to inform you of the EPA's final decision, which is expected in November.

Maine Governor Issues Executive Order on Ethanol: As reported by NMMA Maine Governor Paul LePage (R) has issued an executive order directing all state agencies to implement a purchasing preference for gasoline blended with five percent or less of ethanol, when the fuel is of a comparable cost to gasoline blended with a higher concentration of ethanol. The executive order also calls for the office of Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of HHS to conduct a study regarding the human health effects of emissions produced by the combustion of ethanol containing gasoline and the effect of increasing ethanol blends of emissions. NMMA welcomes the governor's fact-based approach to concerns about the use of ethanol.