**AYC Ecology North**

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**One E15 bill passes committee; more legislation on way**

By Jonathan Sweet, [BoatingIndustry.com](http://www.boatingindustry.com/top-stories/2013/04/12/one-e15-bill-passes-committee-more-legislation-on-way/)

A bill to block the use of 15 percent ethanol blends until more research can be done has made it out of committee in the U.S. House.

[H.R. 875](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:H.R.875), introduced by Rep. James Sensebrenner, R.-Wisc., was approved Thursday by the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology by an 18-17 vote. It was a mostly party-line vote, with only Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., joining the 16 Democrats on the committee in voting no.

H.R. 875 would repeal the EPA’s waiver decision approving the use of E15 and the authority of the agency to grant further decisions until the EPA seeks an independent scientific analysis of the effects of the E15 blend on engines.

On Wednesday, Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., introduced [two more bills to limit E15](http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/article_9a01e436-a259-11e2-89fc-001a4bcf6878.html). The first, the RFS Elimination Act**,** would eliminate the Renewable Fuel Standard – which **requires** that 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels be part of the nation’s fuel supply by 2022 – and “makes ethanol compete in a free market,” Goodlatte said in a statement.

He also introduced the RFS Reform Act, which would cap the amount of ethanol that can be blended into gasoline at 10 percent.

Both bills are supported by several organizations, including the National Marine Manufacturers Association. The bills have been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.