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| **NMMA testifies before Chicago City Council finance committee, opposes E15 proposal** |
| On Monday, NMMA's David Dickerson testified before the Chicago City Council's finance committee and opposed a proposal requiring most gas stations to carry E-15. The proposal's stated goal is to lower fuel prices in city, some of the highest in the US, and reduce pollution. In testifying against the measure, NMMA said that its opposition was shared by BoatUS, boating clubs across the city, marine retail merchants, AAA, the Sierra Club and many other organizations who oppose the expanded use of E15.  The boating industry has long known the hazardous effects of E15 on marine engines. NMMA argued that mandating the sale of E15 in Chicago is likely to cause boaters who make a purchase based on the possibility of a lower price at the pump to accidentally fuel their boat with harmful E15. Similarly, if a consumer were to fill a car and boat during the same transaction, the likelihood of misfueling increases.  Misfueling will not only void warranties, but can cause expensive damage to marine engines and their components and threatens to put boaters in dangerous situations on the water due to potential engine failure. The city is currently planning no consumer education programs and suggests using only the most basic, highly inadequate, signage to denote the differences between E15 and what currently is dispensed at most pumps, E10. NMMA also argued that the mandate should not apply to any pumps at marinas, as the EPA explicitly forbids the use of E15 in marine engines.  The issue is an important one for the city, especially for boaters and the 13,000 boats registered in Chicago. NMMA encourages all residents to continue to contact  city officials directly, or use [Boating United's action alert, here](http://boatingunited.com/app/write-a-letter?1&engagementId=55083&ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxwfra4FRGc5B3HBqEskIK7dbhIFSCFsdfyfXxFQKXLTcrnbCjNoTSsmLUMTgtzUlv0Lg8lu79POtK4dsYpINbmw&lp=0) to contact Mayor Emanuel and tell him to stop the proposed E15 mandate.. For more, read opposition editorials in the [Illinois Observer,](http://www.illinoisobserver.net/2014/07/28/business-coalition-blasts-burke-push-e15-higher-ethanol-fuel-chicago-gas-stations/)  [Chicago Sun-Times](http://www.suntimes.com/opinions/28843609-474/new-fuel-isnt-right-mix-for-chicago.html) and Chicago Tribune.  The bill is currently being sponsored by the chair of the finance committee, Alderman Ed Burke, the most senior member of the City Council. Support for the proposal comes largely from ethanol manufacturers, labor unions and health organizations.  NMMA's efforts have determined uncertainty about the proposal among several committee members. No vote has yet been taken and Chicago's mayor has yet to take a position. NMMA will continue to be actively engaged as this proposal takes shape and will report on updates. |