

Letter to the Editor  
Time

I was extremely disappointed to read your uninformed views of ethanol. While there may be some marine-related technical issues with the use of E15, it is important to understand that the current industry request is to allow up to 15% ethanol blends and in the event it was not well suited for marine applications, the availability of E10 -- which is currently approved, or even zero ethanol content gasoline is an option. If your gripe is against ethanol and boating, let's keep it to that. But you branch off into other areas in which you are clearly uninformed such as food prices, emissions, subsidies, and mileage.

Ethanol is made from feed grains that are never used for food. Ethanol demand has spurred a new generation of farmers and technology allowing us to produce food, feed, and fuel while exporting more than ever before and having larger reserves than at any time in our history. The EPA, the Department of Energy, Argonne National Lab, and study after study confirms that ethanol reduces CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gases. As for subsidies, ethanol is taxed at a lower rate than petroleum, much of which is imported. And, why shouldn't it be? It creates domestic jobs, generates tax income at the federal and state levels, and employs thousands upon thousands of American. Absent the ethanol industry, those jobs and dollars would go to the Middle East or other less than friendly regions of the world.

And finally -- and this is an important point -- the presence of domestic ethanol in the gasoline pool expands supply and keeps prices down. Independent studies have clearly shown that ethanol lowers fuel prices simply by creating fuel supply and without it gasoline prices would be significantly higher. Ethanol now supplies more fuel on an oil equivalency basis than Iran or Venezuela. Imagine what would happen to gasoline prices if one of those countries cut us off. Let's keep technical issues to technical issues, but you are out of line and I dare say many of your readers who care about the lakes, bays, and waterways of this country support American ethanol.

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*The CLEAN FUELS DEVELOPMENT COALITION is an innovative not-for profit organization that actively supports the development and production of fuels with the demonstrated ability to reduce air pollution. By combining the efforts of a variety of industry interests, CFDC has played a crucial leadership role in the development of a national energy strategy, passage of clean fuel legislation and regulation, and the fostering of new fuel technology and manufacturing processes.*