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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMMA Submits Formal Comments on Ethanol Waiver

More than 30,000 comments from the boating community submitted

WASHINGTON D. C., July 20, 2009 – Today, the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) submitted [nearly 40 pages of comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing a petition submitted by Growth Energy, a pro-ethanol lobby, requesting a waiver to allow the sale of ethanol gasoline blends of up to 15 percent (E15). NMMA has long contended that higher ethanol blends could lead to serious performance, durability, and emissions problems in recreational marine engines and boats and that more testing is necessary before any increase in the ethanol blend level can be permitted. In its comments, NMMA urged EPA to deny the waiver petition in its entirety, including the issuance of a “partial waiver” that would attempt to create a dual fuel supply allowing the sale of E15 for newer motor vehicles.

As a result of NMMA’s efforts, with support from the larger boating community, more than 30,000 marine industry employees, boaters and others submitted comments to EPA urging the Agency to deny the waiver.

“NMMA’s comments raise substantial concerns with E15 and demonstrate that there is insufficient information on the impacts of E15 on marine engines and fuel systems,” said NMMA President Thom Dammrich. “It is clear that EPA lacks the scientific and technical information required by law to approve the ethanol industry’s request to allow E15 and we strongly urge EPA to deny the waiver petition.”

In addition to these comments, NMMA submitted comments as part of the Alliance from Safe Alternative Fuels Environment (ALLSAFE), a group of engine manufacturers and other groups focused on bio-fuels. NMMA also joined a broad coalition of business organizations, environmental groups, and consumer groups urging the [Senate Appropriations Committee and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson](#) to instruct Congress not to interfere in the blend wall issue.

NMMA will continue its strong advocacy on ethanol as the recent House-passed climate change bill moves through the Senate and faces attempts by legislators from farm states to include measures to increase the blend limit.

EPA has until December 1, 2009 to grant or deny Growth Energy's waiver petition.

For more information, contact Mat Dunn at 202-737-9760; mdunn@nmma.org or [click here](#) for additional background materials on ethanol.

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NMMA is the leading association representing the recreational boating industry. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters in North America. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy advocacy, market statistics and research, product quality assurance and promotion of the boating lifestyle.