

## Ethanol-Blended Auto Fuel coming to Your State?

Not a single day goes by when EAA does not receive a call from a member concerned that their state legislature is considering a bill (or bills) to mandate 10 percent ethanol-blending in auto fuel sold in their state. The primary question is what can we, as a team, do about it?

### EAA Chapters and individual EAA members:

1. **YOU ARE** the focal point of the fight against ethanol-blending legislature. As voting constituents of your state, your elected legislators listen to your concerns and vote to protect your rights. The action against ethanol-blending begins and ends with how you act.
2. Steps **YOU** need to take:
  - a. First, read the history of [past state actions](#) to better understand how the ethanol issue affects other states. Understand that the federal *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007* requires the national use of 15 billion gallons of grain/corn based ethanol (renewable fuel) by 2015, but it DOES NOT mandate the use in renewable fuel in all grades of auto fuel. Understand that the push for ethanol in all grades of auto fuel comes from ethanol producers – not the federal government.
  - b. Second, confirm if the state is considering creating ethanol-blending laws:
    - i. Call your local state Representative AND your local state Senator and ask them for the bill numbers that are under consideration; and
    - ii. Surf your state website – on your state web site (example: [www.georgia.gov](http://www.georgia.gov)) follow the “Government” link to find the “Legislature” website, then use the search tool on that page to search for “ethanol-blending,” “ethanol,” or “renewable fuel” or a similar topic to find links to specific bills. Then review those bills to find the specific reference to ethanol blending in auto fuel proposals. Write down the bill numbers (House and Senate), and the section within each bill that contains the ethanol-blending proposal.
  - c. Third, if you are not a member of your local EAA chapter – [call the chapter president](#) to find out if there is any effort currently underway to address this issue. Joining the chapter will help with the overall collective advocacy voice.
  - d. Fourth, start forming your coalition to address this issue. Coalition members could be active or they could simply provide you individual or corporate information to bolster your case:
    - i. Set the coalition goal
      1. The best solution would be to press for premium auto fuel to be ethanol free, as this would allow all users to have a choice and provide a means (at each gas station) to exercise that choice.
      2. The next best solution is to have an exemption written into the bills that would allow the users of products and vehicles that need ethanol-free auto fuel to be able to obtain it. The key to this option is that the state must provide reasonable means for their constituents to obtain the ethanol-free fuel. The history of past state actions document will show three examples: Hawaii, Washington, and Oregon ethanol-blending laws containing this exemption. In Hawaii aircraft owners must go to marinas to obtain the fuel; in Washington only two airports (state-wide) sell autofuel; and in Oregon distributors are not encouraged to produce

this fuel or provide it to airports – all three do not provide reasonable means for their constituents to obtain ethanol-free auto fuel. Your goal when using this option is to fight for reasonable means for state constituents to obtain this needed fuel.

- a. As a note, when approached about adding ethanol-free autogas to their fuel product line, many FBO's will state that they are prohibited from selling autofuel to aircraft "by their insurance policy." EAA has contacted the many insurance underwriters and could not find one that included this type of clause in their FBO policies. An FBO's contract with their fuel provider may state that they can not sell competing brands of fuel, it does not say they can't sell autofuel or that it is prohibited per insurance limitations.
- ii. E-mail the EAA Chapter office ([chapters@eaa.org](mailto:chapters@eaa.org)) informing them of the proposed ethanol-blending issue in your state, ensuring to include the bill numbers and web links to those bills. Ask them to send out an e-mail to all chapters (EAA, WOA, IAC, UL, and VAA) in the state outlining the ethanol-blending concerns and to include the contact information for the individual or chapter that will lead this effort. Always follow-up your e-mail with a phone call to the EAA Chapter office to further discuss this issue (888-322-4636, ext. 4876).
- iii. Knowing that ethanol blending effects other users, reach out to them and ask them to join the coalition. From reading the history of past state actions, noted above, you'll know that coalition members can be found within the users/owners of: motorboats, snowmobiles, vintage cars, other recreational vehicles, marinas, dirt bikes, powered hand tools, and ATV's. Their national, state or local associations/clubs can also be a source of additional information.
- iv. Coalition members can also be found within the local/state companies that maintain the motorboats, etc. Their experience in recognizing that ethanol caused damage to rubber fuel lines, metal engine components, fiberglass fuel tanks, etc., will reinforce the information you provide to your state legislators and the state governor.
- v. Don't forget to call or e-mail the major manufacturers of the effected equipment, and ask them to send you their policy on the use of ethanol-blended auto fuel in their products. For examples: STIHL is a major producer of powered hand tools, ROTAX is the primary power source for many aircraft and recreational vehicles, Ariens is a major producer of lawn mowers and snowblowers, and Toro is a major producer of all sizes and types of powered yard/hand tools.
- vi. Ask [EAA](#) and [Peterson Aviation](#) to inform their autofuel STC holders within the state of the effort to build a coalition, asking them to join the effort.
- vii. Another coalition member could be your local new car dealer. For example: the warranty manuals for Toyota contain warnings that their engines and fuel systems will be damaged by using auto fuel that contains greater than a 10 percent ethanol-blend.
- viii. Consider creating an internet forum to help spread the word of your fight and of the discoveries made by your coalition team members. For example: coalition members in Oregon created a very successful [regional Internet forum](#) and a very informative [fact sheet](#).

- ix. Also consider asking the director of your state Aviation/Aeronautics office within the Department of Transportation for assistance with the issues you're facing. This individual is charged with ensuring the safety of aircraft and airports within the state and could be a vital component of your coalition. That said, you must also remember that this individual is a member of the governors staff and must promote the governors agenda – if that agenda includes the promotion of ethanol-blending in all grades of auto fuel, then his/her hands may be somewhat tied as to the support they can provide.
  - x. Finally, don't forget that if you discover a state representative or state senator that is supportive of your ethanol-free coalition goal and is willing to introduce or co-sign a new or revised bill, then they become a component of your overall coalition.
3. To be successful, your coalition grass roots efforts must:
- a. Reach out and touch as many state legislators (senate and house) as possible. Each coalition member must also be encouraged to send the same coalition goal message to the governor, to the chairman of the committee hearing the bills, and to the sponsor of each bill. Their phone number, fax number, e-mail address, and mailing address are located in the legislative section of your state government website.
  - b. Reach out and touch local and state media sources, including those located in the state capitol, such as newspapers, radio, TV, internet radio shows, etc., to state your case. The EAA Communications/Public Relations department (800-564-6322, ext. 6295) can provide guidance on how best to use these resources.

*Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):* The FAA is a great source of information concerning the effects of ethanol-blended auto fuel on aircraft engines. Understand the existing limitations contained in the Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB), dated 10/27/2006, [number CE-07-06](#). Call or e-mail the FAA individual listed as the contact for the SAIB with any questions you have.

*EAA:*

This document is intended to assist you in keeping fuel available for your aircraft within your state. We hope you will be proactive in securing your rights as a member of the flying public. **You and your coalition** are the **ONLY** ones that are capable of making an impact on your state legislators. Ethanol-blending auto fuel mandates are a state-by-state fight for **your rights!**

Remember not to be negative about ethanol use in autofuel as this creates a confrontational atmosphere and will not be productive in getting you the ethanol-free auto fuel you want and need. The most successful aircraft owners and coalition partners have asked for ethanol-free premium fuel that is available to the general public at most local gas stations. Availability and access are the keys to your long-term success.

We encourage each of you to test the fuel for your aircraft prior to filling it with any type of auto fuel (Mogas) to make sure you, your aircraft, and your passengers are safe. We have had several calls from auto fuel STC holders that had no idea the fuel in their aircraft had ethanol in it until they had problems in the air and had to land immediately. Ethanol caused damage to your aircraft engine and fuel system can be very extensive. To avoid this use, an [Auto Gas Alcohol Tester is available from EAA](#) to ensure the fuel you use is ethanol-free.

- To order a test kit (\$15.00 per kit) follow the instructions on the [web page](#) or
  - E-mail Debi Walker at [dwalker.eaa.org](mailto:dwalker.eaa.org) with your mailing address and charge card number with expiration date; or
  - Call Debi at 920-426-4843 or 800-564-6322 Ext 4843; or
  - Make a check payable to “EAA” for \$15 per test kit and mail it to: EAA Flight Center (Test Kit), 1145 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54904.
  - Your order is usually filled on the day we receive the order and is sent out US Postal Service Priority Mail.
  - **Chapters with orders of 25 testers or more**, shipped to one business address via UPS, get a discounted rate. Please call 920-426-4843 or 800-564-6322, ext 4843 for specific discounts.

We hope this document gets you started on your quest for ethanol-free auto fuel. If you need additional assistance with specific situations, please contact our Government Relations department at 888-322-4636 Ext. 6522 or 920-426-6522.

EAA has worked successfully as advisors on many of the individual state ethanol-blending issues, but the groundwork, the contacting of each state representative & senator, contacting your governor, and contacting your local media, **MUST** be done by you and your coalition. As a constituent of your state leaders you and your coalition carry considerable weight – use it and use it effectively.

EAA continues to work at the national level to present the concerns of our members.