

House Energy & Commerce Committee


Ranking Member

Republicans

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Targeting Boutique Fuels

- This legislation expands on the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and takes the next step in making fuels less like coffee at Starbucks and more fungible. An editorial in *USA Today*, dated May 5, 2006, equated boutique fuels to coffee at Starbucks – unnecessarily complex and pricy. We need to restore fungibility to the market by harmonizing our fuel system.
- Boutique fuels are specialized blends produced for a specific state or area of the country to meet state and local air quality requirements. These unique fuels present serious challenges to the fuel distribution system and, especially in times of disruption, may have the potential to result in local supply shortages. This legislation relies on a simple concept: Create a larger market for a greater amount of gasoline.

H.R. 2493, the Boutique Fuel Reduction Act of 2007, would:

1. Ratchet down on the existing number of fuels by requiring the EPA to remove a boutique fuel from the list published pursuant to the EPAct of 2005 if that fuel ceases to be included in any State implementation plan or if the fuel is functionally identical to a federal fuel control promulgated and implemented by EPA.
2. Provide the EPA with additional waiver authority to include: unexpected problems with distribution or delivery equipment that is necessary for transportation and delivery of fuel or fuel additives.