

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 875

To provide for a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and technical research on the implications of the use of mid-level ethanol blends, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. HALL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and technical research on the implications of the use of mid-level ethanol blends, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency.

1 (2) MID-LEVEL ETHANOL BLEND.—The term
2 “mid-level ethanol blend” means an ethanol-gasoline
3 blend containing greater than 10 and up to and in-
4 cluding 20 percent ethanol by volume that is in-
5 tended to be used in any conventional gasoline-pow-
6 ered motor vehicle or nonroad vehicle or engine.

7 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
9 through the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Re-
10 search and Development at the Environmental Protection
11 Agency, shall—

12 (1) not later than 45 days after the date of en-
13 actment of this Act, enter into an agreement with
14 the National Academy of Sciences to provide, within
15 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
16 a comprehensive assessment of the scientific and
17 technical research on the implications of the use of
18 mid-level ethanol blends, comparing mid-level eth-
19 anol blends to gasoline blends containing 10 percent
20 or zero percent ethanol; and

21 (2) not later than 30 days after receiving the
22 results of the assessment under paragraph (1), sub-
23 mit a report to the Committee on Science, Space,
24 and Technology of the House of Representatives and
25 the Committee on Environment and Public Works of

1 the Senate on the findings of the assessment, to-
2 gether with the agreement or disagreement of the
3 Administrator with each of its findings.

4 (b) WAIVERS.—Prior to the submission of the report
5 under subsection (a)(2), any waiver granted under section
6 211(f)(4) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545 (f)(4))
7 before the date of enactment of this Act that allows the
8 introduction into commerce of mid-level ethanol blends for
9 use in motor vehicles shall have no force or effect. The
10 Administrator shall grant no new waivers under such sec-
11 tion 211(f)(4) until after the submission of the report de-
12 scribed under subsection (a)(2).

13 (c) CONTENTS.—The assessment performed under
14 subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

15 (1) An evaluation of the short-term and long-
16 term environmental, safety, durability, and perform-
17 ance effects of the introduction of mid-level ethanol
18 blends on onroad, nonroad, and marine engines,
19 onroad and nonroad vehicles, and related equipment.
20 Such evaluation shall consider the impacts of quali-
21 fying mid-level ethanol blends or blends with higher
22 ethanol concentrations as a certification fuel. Such
23 evaluation shall include a review of all available sci-
24 entific evidence, including all relevant government
25 and industry data and testing, including that relied

1 upon by the Administrator and published at 75 Fed.
2 Reg. 68094 et seq. (November 4, 2010), 76 Fed.
3 Reg. 4662 et seq. (January 26, 2011), and 76 Fed.
4 Reg. 44406 et seq. (July 25, 2011), and identify
5 gaps in understanding and research needs related
6 to—

7 (A) tailpipe emissions;

8 (B) evaporative emissions;

9 (C) engine and fuel system durability;

10 (D) onboard diagnostics;

11 (E) emissions inventory and other mod-
12 eling effects;

13 (F) materials compatibility;

14 (G) operability and drivability;

15 (H) fuel efficiency;

16 (I) fuel economy;

17 (J) consumer education and satisfaction;

18 (K) cost-effectiveness for the consumer;

19 (L) catalyst durability; and

20 (M) durability of storage tanks, piping,
21 and dispensers for retail.

22 (2) An identification of areas of research, devel-
23 opment, and testing necessary to—

24 (A) ensure that existing motor fuel infra-
25 structure is not adversely impacted by mid-level

1 ethanol blends, including an examination of po-
2 tential impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on
3 metal, plastic, rubber, or any other materials
4 used in pipes or storage tanks; and

5 (B) reduce the risk of misfueling by users
6 at various points in the distribution and supply
7 chain, including at bulk storage, retail storage,
8 and distribution configurations by—

9 (i) assessing the best methods and
10 practices to prevent misfueling;

11 (ii) examining misfueling mitigation
12 strategies for blender pumps, including vol-
13 umetric purchase requirements and label-
14 ing requirements;

15 (iii) assessing the adequacy of and
16 ability for misfueling mitigation plans ap-
17 proved by the Environmental Protection
18 Agency; and

19 (iv) examining the technical standards
20 and recommendations of the National In-
21 stitute of Standards and Technology, the
22 American National Standards Institute,
23 and the International Organization for
24 Standardization regarding fuel pump label-
25 ing.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 In order to carry out this Act, the Administrator shall
3 utilize up to \$900,000 from the funds made available for
4 science and technology, including research and develop-
5 ment activities, at the Environmental Protection Agency.

○