

Reps. Cushingberry, Neumann, Espinoza, Terry Brown, Lemmons, Spade, Hansen, McDowell, Lahti, Simpson, Ball, Constan, Dean, Durhal, Gonzales, Haugh, Huckleberry, Rick Jones, Robert Jones, Kowall, LeBlanc, Leland, Liss, Marleau, Mayes, Polidori, Rogers, Sheltroun, Switalski and Valentine offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 14.

A resolution to urge the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to waive any taxes or fees related to distilled spirits for plants making ethanol solely for fuel use.

Whereas, Many people believe that ethanol provides a beneficial alternative to gasoline for the nation's transportation needs. Americans face significant energy challenges, such as climate change and uncertain oil supplies, related to our dependence on petroleum-derived gasoline from foreign sources. Widespread domestic production of ethanol and its use in U.S. cars and trucks can help us decrease our dependence on foreign oil and mitigate climate change; and

Whereas, There is generally only one difference between plants that produce ethanol for fuel use and those that produce ethanol for alcoholic beverage use. Both types of plants facilitate the fermentation of various organic materials to produce ethanol, which is then distilled. However, fuel ethanol plants add a denaturant to the ethanol to make it unfit for human consumption; and

Whereas, The U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) oversees production facilities where ethanol is produced whether it is for beverage or fuel purposes. The TTB may charge ethanol producers certain fees and taxes; and

Whereas, The U.S. Government has recognized the importance of expanding the production and use of ethanol and other alternative transportation fuels. The Renewable Fuel Standard, enacted by Congress in 2005, mandates that renewable transportation fuels comprise a certain percentage, which increases each year, of the nation's fuel supply. The U.S. Department of Energy has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in expanding the number of plants producing ethanol from cellulose; and

Whereas, The TTB should follow the lead of other federal agencies and do all it can to promote, not discourage, the widespread production of fuel ethanol plants throughout the country. The fees and taxes that the TTB may charge to fuel ethanol plants can be a disincentive for people thinking about investing in such a business; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to waive any taxes or fees related to distilled spirits for plants making ethanol solely for fuel use; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.