Legislators who want to require the labeling of ethanol-blended gasoline lost a round in the House on Thursday.

A bill to repeal labeling requirements was passed out by the House Natural Resources Committee. On Thursday, lawmakers squelched an effort to reroute it through the House Commerce Committee. The rerouting would have given labeling proponents a chance to give an unfavorable report to the repeal measure.

Rep. Charles Cusimano, R-Metairie, moved to recommit HB1694 to the House Commerce Committee. His motion failed when only 45 representatives voted for it and 54 voted against.

The vote was a victory for proponents of the ethanol industry, who oppose the labeling requirement. Earlier in the day, a representative of gasoline retailers, who oppose repeal of the labeling law, said he believes lawmakers have been influenced by campaign contributions from ethanol producers.

"It seems the only people benefiting from this gasohol subsidy are the producers of it and their friends in political circles," said Sterling Callegan, executive director of Bayou State Gasoline Retailers Association Inc.

Proponents of the repeal bill, which came out of the Natural Resources Committee on a 11-6 vote, argued that gasoline retailers could label the product themselves if they want to.

Callegan disagreed. "That's a big concern that we have," he said. "We don't see that we will have any knowledge of what they're putting in our pumps."

Also Thursday, the Louisiana Consumers' League joined the lobbying effort against the bill repealing the labeling requirement. The consumer group claims "the consumers' right to fair packaging and full disclosure regarding what they are putting in their gas tank is violated."

Also, Thursday, the Louisiana Consumers' League joined the lobbying effort against the bill repealing the labeling requirement. The consumer group claims "the consumers' right to fair packaging and full disclosure regarding what they are putting in their gas tank is violated."

Proponents of the repeal bill, which came out of the Natural Resources Committee on a 11-6 vote, argued that gasoline retailers could label the product themselves if they want to.