



State of Wisconsin
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0088/1
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**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 58**

June 1, 1999 – Offered by Representative BOCK.

1 **Relating to:** requesting Congress to prohibit the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether
2 as an oxygenate additive in reformulated gasoline.

3 Whereas, the federal Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 require the use of
4 reformulated gasoline with oxygen additives in areas of the United States that have
5 substantial ozone pollution; and

6 Whereas, the state of California will phase out the use of methyl tertiary butyl
7 ether (MTBE) over the next 3 years in response to concerns from environmental
8 groups and oil refineries relating to water contamination; and

9 Whereas, under the federal amendments, 6 ozone nonattainment counties in
10 Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington
11 counties) were required to implement use of reformulated gasoline as of January 1,
12 1995; and

1 Whereas, industry studies indicated that reformulated gasoline reduces the
2 rate at which pollutants evaporate into the air, producing 15% to 17% less pollution
3 than nonreformulated gasoline; and

4 Whereas, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules require reformulated
5 gasoline to contain lower levels of benzene and other aromatic hydrocarbons than
6 conventional gasoline; and

7 Whereas, the use of reformulated gasoline in conjunction with modern
8 automotive technology has resulted in significant reductions in emissions of benzene
9 and volatile organic compounds and minor reductions in emissions of nitrogen
10 oxides; and

11 Whereas, a recent report from the National Research Council questioned the
12 effectiveness of oxygenates in reducing ozone and reaffirmed the role reformulated
13 gasoline plays in reducing the emissions that cause smog; and

14 Whereas, discontinuation of reformulated gasoline in the 6 nonattainment
15 counties would complicate state efforts to reduce ozone pollution and would likely
16 force industrial sources to reduce emissions; and

17 Whereas, Wisconsin has a proud tradition of sound environmental policies and
18 is committed to a clean environment and a strong economy; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
20 Wisconsin legislature recognize that air quality standards and improvements to
21 vehicles over the last few decades have helped reduce emissions that create
22 near-ground ozone; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin legislature recognize that the
24 use of clean burning fuels will reduce ground level ozone concentrations in the 6
25 nonattainment counties; and, be it further

