

1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 120

March 22, 2000 – Introduced by Representatives KEDZIE, NASS, JOHNSRUD, WALKER, HUEBSCH, OTT, LADWIG, KESTELL, DUFF, HAHN, STONE, MUSSER, GROTHMAN, GUNDERSON, PORTER and BRANDEMUEHL, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, SCHULTZ, HUELSMAN, ROESSLER and GROBSCHMIDT. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** requesting Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2 to act to bring about the elimination of the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether
3 in gasoline and to act to ensure that methyl tertiary butyl ether is not used in
4 reformulated gasoline in the Milwaukee nonattainment area this summer.

5 Whereas, the federal Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 require the use of
6 reformulated gasoline containing a minimum of 2% oxygenate content by weight to
7 reduce the concentration of various types of air contaminants, including ground level
8 ozone and carbon monoxide in regions in the United States where the national
9 ambient air quality standards are exceeded; and

10 Whereas, under the federal Clean Air Act, 9 metropolitan areas in the country
11 were designated as nonattainment areas for ozone, including 6 counties in the
12 greater Milwaukee area (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, Ozaukee and
13 Washington counties), and were required to implement the use of reformulated
14 gasoline as of January 1, 1995; and

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

4 Whereas, in January 1995, media attention and public complaints, including
5 health concerns, higher costs of fuel and decreased engine performance, prompted
6 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to hold public hearings in
7 Milwaukee and assist Wisconsin with health studies related to the use of methyl
8 tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in reformulated gasoline; and

9 Whereas, it has been found that in Wisconsin there are leaking underground
10 storage tanks with groundwater contamination caused by MTBE raising additional
11 health concerns; and

12 Whereas, the EPA's "blue ribbon panel" of leading experts has recommended an
13 immediate and significant reduction in the use of MTBE in gasoline, leading to the
14 discontinuation of its use because of public health concerns associated with
15 contaminated water supplies; and

16 Whereas, Wisconsin has a proud tradition of sound environmental policies and
17 is committed to clean air; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
19 Wisconsin legislature request that the Congress of the United States and the EPA
20 expedite action to implement the blue ribbon panel recommendation pertaining to
21 the elimination of the use of MTBE in gasoline; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin legislature request the
23 Congress of the United States to phase out the use of MTBE by 2003; and, be it
24 further

