



SCOTT FITZGERALD

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2006

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Statement on Vote on Ethanol Legislation

Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R – Juneau) released the following statement on Senate action on Assembly Bill 15:

“Earlier today, I voted in favor of indefinitely postponing Assembly Bill 15, mandating the use of 10 percent ethanol in 87 octane gasoline in Wisconsin.

“No issue this session has generated as much interest, debate or feedback as AB 15. I have heard from hundreds of my constituents on both sides of this issue over the last few months, and appreciate their feedback.

“It is unfortunate that Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz brought this bill to the floor under these circumstances and against the will of a large majority of our caucus.

“Changes made to the bill by the Senate Insurance Committee give the DNR an extraordinary amount of power. These changes were designed to gain the support of the Sierra Club and environmentalist legislators, but there was still not enough support for this bill to pass the Senate.

“I support Wisconsin’s ethanol industry and think that it will continue to be an important part of Wisconsin’s economy and America’s energy future. I am not willing to put the fate of the industry in the hands of a controversial agency like the DNR. Furthermore, an outright defeat of this bill today on a vote for final passage would have been a blow from which the ethanol industry might never recover. I did not want to put the industry’s future at risk by seeing that happen today.

“I hope supporters of AB 15 recognize that there is work to be done on their proposal and opponents of AB 15 will engage in an open discussion on ways to improve the bill.

“In the future, if there is agreement on a proposal that can help the ethanol industry grow in Wisconsin while giving consumers choices over the types of fuel they use in their vehicles, Senate leadership can bring it forward for consideration. But AB 15 in its current form is not that proposal, and today was not the right day for this vote.”

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