



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FREESE & HARSDORF INTRODUCE “E10” FUEL PLAN FOR WISCONSIN

Renewable Fuel Blend Receives Strong Bipartisan Support

MADISON – At a news conference this morning, State Representative Steve Freese (R-Dodgeville) & State Senator Shelia Harsdorf (R-River Falls) detailed their plan for all automotive gasoline in Wisconsin to contain 10% ethanol, or E10. Dozens of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are standing up and giving their full support to Wisconsin farmers and consumers.

“E10 is about a stronger rural economy, a cleaner environment, and more energy security for Wisconsin and for America,” said Freese. “It’s high time we make the switch to E10 in Wisconsin and enjoy its benefits. If we don’t, big oil companies and foreign oil producers will.”

“Stimulating demand for ethanol in Wisconsin is environmentally friendly and economically beneficial,” said Harsdorf. “Our E10 fuel plan, modeled after our Minnesota neighbors, is the right public policy that will help our rural communities prosper.”

The E10 plan is fashioned after the successful Minnesota law that requires not less than 9.2 % nor more than 10% ethanol in automotive gasoline. In addition, the E10 bill contains several exemptions for aircraft, collector vehicles, boats, and various other vehicles.

The impact of ethanol production and consumption in Minnesota’s economy is profound. According to a study commissioned by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the ethanol industry contributes over 2,500 jobs and \$600 million to the state’s economy, both directly and indirectly. In addition, the Minneapolis – St. Paul metro area now meets the EPA’s carbon monoxide standard and has achieved attainment status, due in large part to the use of E10.

Lawmakers also point to America’s increasing dependence on foreign oil as a need to implement E10 sooner rather than later. As a renewable and domestic source of energy, ethanol reduces the need to import almost 130,000 barrels of oil a day. The United States’ ability to control its own security and economic future is invaluable, according to lawmakers.

“If we’re serious about developing energy independence and adding value to Wisconsin farm products, then we need to do what we can to encourage the use and production of ethanol right from our farm fields,” said Bill Bruins, president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

“Wisconsin has a choice: do we want oil from the Middle East or America’s fuel, ethanol?” asked Freese. “My colleagues and I stand with Wisconsin farmers and consumers and choose E10.”