

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

We are writing to ask you to immediately approve our request to waive all reformulated gas (RFG) requirements for the state of Wisconsin. The announcement by BP that they are closing the largest U.S. oil field for an indefinite period of time makes your immediate action even more critical. By waiving RFG requirements, the EPA can help prevent or lessen the impact of price spikes at Wisconsin gas pumps as a result of this closure.

As you know, on July 6, 2006, we requested that you use your authority under Section 1541 of the Energy Policy Act to waive RFG requirements and allow Wisconsin consumers access to the lowest price gas available. We had made a similar request in April, and we are disappointed that no action has been taken to date on our earlier requests.

With BP's announcement that it is shutting down Prudhoe Bay oil field, which produces 400,000 barrels a day – representing about 8 percent of U.S. domestic supply, the market is already reacting to this serious supply disruption. In Wisconsin, drivers typically feel the impact of supply disruptions even more acutely than drivers elsewhere, due to the unique type of reformulated gasoline that is required in parts of the state. With the closure of Prudhoe Bay oil field due to pipeline corrosion, gas prices are expected to surge higher in the days ahead. Your prompt action on our request could prevent Wisconsin drivers from being hit even harder with price spikes resulting from supply shortages of the unique type of RFG required in certain areas.

We cannot stress how important it is for you to waive these requirements so Wisconsin consumers can have access to the lowest-cost gasoline available. Rising gas prices are causing significant strain on families and businesses. We look forward to hearing back from you shortly.

Best Regards,



Mark Green
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan
Member of Congress