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Senator Alberta Darling
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Darling, Colleagues Urge Federal Action on Gas Prices

MADISON . . . Over two dozen Wisconsin lawmakers are urging members of the state's Congressional delegation to take action alleviating the price of gasoline. State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) said the issue of gas prices is a top concern in her district.

"Gas prices are really hitting families in their pocketbook," said Darling. "I've supported efforts to cut the state gas tax, end the automatic increase in the gas tax and protect that revenue from being used for unrelated government spending, but there are steps our federal leaders can take to help address this problem as well."

The legislators are calling on Wisconsin's federal lawmakers to repeal the federal renewable fuel mandate and eliminate tax credits for ethanol production.

"It is a laudable goal to reduce our dependence on foreign oil for our energy needs," they write, "but current ethanol policies have been an economic and environmental disaster worldwide."

The legislators also asked for federal assistance to lift the Environmental Protection Agency's reformulated gas (RFG) mandate, arguing the "boutique fuel" has not lived up to its promise to be cheaper, cleaner and more fuel-efficient.

"As gas prices rise, the last thing southeast Wisconsin motorists need is the added burden of ethanol RFG adding another ten cents to each gallon of gas," the letter states.

"I'm hope that our federal legislators will take these suggestions seriously," said Darling. "There's a great anxiety among Wisconsin drivers over how high the ceiling will be on gas prices as we approach summer."

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