



For Immediate Release

For Further Information, Contact:
August 12, 2008

Senator Alberta Darling
608-266-5830

The Darling Plan for Lower Gas Prices

Democrats and Republicans have wildly differing ideas when it comes to addressing the high price of gasoline. The Democrats' answer is higher taxes and more regulations on oil companies and motorists. Republicans, on the other hand, have ideas that will actually work. While a portion of the high price of gas is explained simply by supply and demand, there is a lot the government can do to lessen our pain at the pump. Here are my ideas for lower gas prices.

A couple years ago, the Republican-led state legislature lowered the state gas tax and we also stopped the yearly automatic gas tax hike, known as gas tax "indexing." Another thing we could do here at the state level would be to end the minimum mark-up on gas. The minimum mark-up is an old law from the Depression Era that requires gas retailers to mark up their products a certain percentage over wholesale price, and its costing Wisconsin drivers millions of dollars.

But the federal government could do even more to help. That is why I have asked Congress to repeal the ethanol tax credit and repeal the new law that mandates greater ethanol use in gasoline. Congressmen Sensenbrenner and Ryan are leading the charge to make these changes.

I have also asked the EPA to lift the reformulated gas (RFG) mandate on southeast Wisconsin counties. RFG is an unnecessarily-specialized "boutique fuel" that costs more without delivering any solid evidence that it helps make our air any cleaner.

Finally, another easy way to lower gas prices is for America to simply go out and find more of it! I have asked Congress to allow for more domestic oil exploration. Utilizing new, environmentally-responsible drilling technology is another step toward increased energy independence.

###