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11/1/2019

Members of the Wisconsin Legislature:

**On behalf of the Wisconsin's propane retailers and suppliers, we are writing to ask that you support and co-sponsor LRB-4633/LRB-4297 Participation in the Propane Assessment Program, that is currently circulating for co-sponsorship by Representative Kevin Petersen and Senator Jerry Petrowski.**

This bill will allow the Wisconsin Propane Education and Research Council (WiPERC) to establish an industry assessment program that would allow propane retailers in Wisconsin to be assessed at a rate of two tenths of one cent per gallon of odorized propane. The funds generated through the assessment program will allow the WiPERC to offer more education, training, rebate and safety programs for not only propane employees, but for propane customers and the general public as well.

The propane assessment program will help provide tools for the propane industry in Wisconsin to help maintain their business and provide support to help them grow their business. There is no government involvement, the program is managed entirely by the industry and costs the state nothing. It is not a tax, nor is it subsidized by the state or ratepayers as is natural gas. All of the funds and program oversight will be the responsibility of the WiPERC Board of Directors and WiPERC staff. A propane retailer can opt out of the program if they do not want to participate. This legislation simply provides the language needed to create framework to provide the private assessment.

Wisconsin is the only state in the Midwest that does not have a state assessment program. Neighboring states like Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, and Illinois all have these programs and their propane retailers are better equipped from their training and safety programs to help their businesses and their customers.

Focus on Energy, funded through ratepayer dollars, provides rebates for natural gas and electric appliances, smart thermostats, LED light bulbs, and much more. There are no funds available for propane powered appliances through Focus on Energy, putting propane retailers at a disadvantage. The propane assessment would provide funding for rebates on a variety of appliances including meters, water heaters, dryers and furnaces.

When passed and signed into law, propane retailers in Wisconsin must pass a referendum for approval. The rate of 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a cent per gallon cannot be increased by more than 1/2 of a 10<sup>th</sup>/cent unless approved by a referendum of the propane retailers in Wisconsin.

Please contact Jeff Schoenfeldt in Senator Jerry Petrowski's office at 6-2502 or Jim Bowers in Representative Kevin Petersen's office at 6-3794 by 5:00pm on Friday, November 8, 2019 to be added as a co-sponsor to LRB-4633/LRB 4297.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Corning".

Emma Corning, WPGA & WiPERC Executive Director  
608-210-3307 | [emma@wipga.org](mailto:emma@wipga.org)