

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2723

To amend the Clean Air Act to permit the Governor of a State to waive the oxygen content requirement for reformulated gasoline, to encourage development of voluntary standards to prevent and control releases of methyl tertiary butyl ether from underground storage tanks, to establish a program to phase out the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2000

Mr. INHOFE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Clean Air Act to permit the Governor of a State to waive the oxygen content requirement for reformulated gasoline, to encourage development of voluntary standards to prevent and control releases of methyl tertiary butyl ether from underground storage tanks, to establish a program to phase out the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. WAIVER OF OXYGEN CONTENT REQUIREMENT**2 **FOR REFORMULATED GASOLINE.**

3 Section 211(k)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.

4 7545(k)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “Within 1 year after the enact-
6 ment of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990,”

7 and inserting the following:

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than No-
9 vember 15, 1991,”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(B) WAIVER OF OXYGEN CONTENT RE-
12 QUIREMENT.—13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
14 any other provision of this subsection,
15 upon notification by the Governor of a
16 State to the Administrator, a Governor
17 may waive paragraphs (2)(B) and
18 (3)(A)(v) with respect to gasoline sold or
19 dispensed in the State.20 “(ii) TREATMENT AS REFORMULATED
21 GASOLINE.—In the case of a State for
22 which the Governor invokes the waiver de-
23 scribed in clause (i), gasoline that complies
24 with all provisions of this subsection other
25 than paragraphs (2)(B) and (3)(A)(v) shall

1 be considered to be reformulated gasoline
2 for the purposes of this subsection.

3 “(iii) SPECIAL RULE.—Paragraphs
4 (2)(B) and (3)(A)(v) shall not apply to
5 gasoline sold or dispensed in a State de-
6 scribed in subsection (c)(4)(B).

7 “(C) MAINTENANCE OF EMISSION REDUC-
8 TION BENEFITS.—

9 “(i) REGULATIONS.—Not later than
10 270 days after the date of enactment of
11 this subparagraph, the Administrator shall
12 promulgate regulations consistent with
13 paragraph (3)(B)(ii) to ensure that the
14 benefits of toxic air pollutant reductions
15 under the reformulated gasoline program
16 under this section are maintained in States
17 for which a Governor waives the oxygenate
18 requirement under subparagraph (B)(i).

19 “(ii) REGIONAL DESIGNATIONS.—In
20 carrying out clause (i), the Administrator,
21 in cooperation with the Secretary of En-
22 ergy, shall develop designations for regions
23 of the United States based on the extent
24 and location of the gasoline distribution
25 and supply network in the United States.

1 “(iii) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

2 The Administrator, in regulations promul-
3 gated under clause (i), shall use the re-
4 gional designations developed under clause
5 (ii) to establish annual average perform-
6 ance standards for each region based on—

7 “(I) the phase II reformulated
8 gasoline complex model in existence
9 on the date of enactment of this sub-
10 paragraph; and

11 “(II) the annual reductions in
12 emissions of toxic air pollutants
13 achieved in the region under the refor-
14 mulated gasoline program during cal-
15 endar years 1998 and 1999, as deter-
16 mined using compliance survey data.

17 “(iv) APPLICABILITY.—

18 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The applica-
19 ble performance standards under
20 clause (iii) shall be applied on an an-
21 nual average basis to the manufacture
22 of reformulated gasoline that is sold
23 or introduced into commerce by a re-
24 finery in a State for which the Gov-

1 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL STANDARDS TO**
2 **CONTROL RELEASES OF MTBE FROM UNDER-**
3 **GROUND STORAGE TANKS.**

4 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
6 tection Agency, in consultation with members of the af-
7 fected industries, shall conduct a study and submit to Con-
8 gress a report on whether additional standards to prevent
9 and control releases of methyl tertiary butyl ether from
10 underground storage tanks are necessary.

11 **SEC. 3. CONTROL OF OXYGENATED FUEL ADDITIVES TO**
12 **PREVENT AIR OR WATER POLLUTION.**

13 Section 211(c)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.
14 7545(c)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing: “The Administrator may control or prohibit the
16 introduction into commerce, offering for sale, or sale of
17 any oxygenated fuel additive for use in a motor vehicle,
18 motor vehicle engine, nonroad engine, or nonroad vehicle,
19 if in the judgment of the Administrator the oxygenated
20 fuel additive causes or contributes to air pollution or water
21 pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger
22 the public health or welfare.”.

23 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON USE OF MTBE.**

24 (a) **SALE OF GASOLINE CONTAINING MTBE.**—Sec-
25 tion 211(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(c)) is
26 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) LIMITATIONS ON SALE OF GASOLINE CON-
2 TAINING MTBE.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), for the fourth full calendar year that
4 begins after the date of enactment of this para-
5 graph and each calendar year thereafter—

6 “(i) the quantity of gasoline sold or
7 introduced into commerce during the cal-
8 endar year by a refiner, blender, or im-
9 porter of gasoline shall contain on average
10 not more than 1 percent by volume methyl
11 tertiary butyl ether; and

12 “(ii) a refiner, blender, or importer of
13 gasoline shall not sell or introduce into
14 commerce any gasoline that contains more
15 than an historical level by volume of meth-
16 yl tertiary butyl ether, as determined by
17 the Administrator by regulation.

18 “(B) REGULATIONS CONCERNING PHASE-
19 DOWN.—As soon as practicable after the date
20 of enactment of this paragraph, the Adminis-
21 trator shall establish by regulation a program
22 to phase down the percentage of methyl tertiary
23 butyl ether contained in gasoline in accordance
24 with subparagraph (A)(i).

1 “(C) REGULATIONS CONCERNING TRAD-
2 ING.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
4 may promulgate regulations to permit re-
5 finers, blenders, and importers to sell to,
6 and purchase from, each other authoriza-
7 tions to sell or introduce into commerce
8 gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl
9 ether in excess of the limitation specified
10 in subparagraph (A)(i).

11 “(ii) MAXIMUM ANNUAL LIMITA-
12 TION.—In carrying out clause (i), the Ad-
13 ministrator shall ensure that the total
14 quantity of gasoline sold or introduced into
15 commerce during any calendar year by all
16 refiners, blenders, or importers contains on
17 average not more than 1 percent by volume
18 methyl tertiary butyl ether.”.

19 (b) STATE AUTHORITY TO REVISE IMPLEMENTA-
20 TION PLAN.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
22 110 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7410), a State
23 may submit to the Administrator of the Environ-
24 mental Protection Agency a State implementation
25 plan revision that provides for the reduction or

1 elimination of the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether
2 in gasoline sold or introduced into commerce in the
3 State if the Governor of the State demonstrates
4 that—

5 (A) the reduction or elimination would not
6 cause any significant disruption in the avail-
7 ability, supply, or price of gasoline in the State;

8 (B) the reduction or elimination is nec-
9 essary to protect the public health or environ-
10 ment; and

11 (C) any alternative additive used will not
12 present an equivalent or greater problem than
13 any problem posed by the use of methyl tertiary
14 butyl ether.

15 (2) SPECIAL RULE.—Paragraph (1)—

16 (A) does not apply to a State described in
17 section 211(c)(4)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42
18 U.S.C. 7545(c)(4)(B)); and

19 (B) does not limit the authority of such a
20 State under section 211(c)(4)(B) of that Act to
21 at any time prescribe and enforce a control or
22 prohibition respecting methyl tertiary butyl
23 ether or any other fuel additive.

24 (c) PERMIT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.—In the case
25 of any State in which are located 1 or more facilities that

1 produce methyl tertiary butyl ether and that, as a result
2 of any provision of or amendment made by this Act, apply
3 for a new permit or permit modification under the Clean
4 Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Administrator of
5 the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide to the
6 State technical assistance and personnel to assist in the
7 application for or modification of such permits.

8 **SEC. 5. ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLY.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to ensure an adequate
10 fuel supply for all States, any regulation or modification
11 of fuel properties promulgated or approved by the Admin-
12 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under
13 this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall take
14 into consideration the need for reasonable schedules for
15 carrying out necessary refinery investment projects and
16 making appropriate modifications to fuel distribution sys-
17 tems.

18 (b) **FUEL INDUSTRY FLEXIBILITY.**—In imple-
19 menting and enforcing regulations and modifications de-
20 scribed in subsection (a), the Administrator shall provide
21 the fuel industry with the flexibility inherent in fuel regu-
22 lations in effect on the day before the date of enactment
23 of this Act.

