

# WISCONSIN PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

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TO: Members, Milwaukee Common Council

FR: Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association  
Milwaukee Locals: Steamfitters Local 601, Plumbers Local 75 and  
Sprinkler Fitters Local 183

DA: July 21, 2008

RE: Comments submitted regarding resolution opposing ethanol and biofuels

UA Affiliated  
Unions:

Fox Valley  
No. 400

Milwaukee-Madison  
No. 75  
No. 601

Milwaukee  
No. 183

Northwest  
No. 434

Racine-Kenosha  
No. 118

Superior-Duluth  
No. 11

Local 669  
District 15  
District 31

Toll Free  
888-248-3392

Website  
[www.wpipetrades.org](http://www.wpipetrades.org)

Good afternoon. My name is Joel Zielke and I am the Financial Secretary/Treasurer of Steamfitters Local 601 and a member of the Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association (WPTA). On behalf of 2,100 Milwaukee area members and 9,000 members statewide, we urge members of the Common Council to abstain from passing a resolution that would oppose all efforts to incorporate ethanol and other biofuels into our area's energy mix.

Rather, we would like to encourage the Council to maintain an open dialogue on ethanol, biofuels and the jobs and economic development it has brought to our union workers and the State of Wisconsin. As the state's economic hub, it is important for Milwaukee to set an example on policy, including policy on energy, and this would be a terrible precedent.

Ethanol and biofuels have helped reduce our dependence on foreign oil and created hundreds if not thousands of jobs for construction workers. The construction of one ethanol plant, whether corn-based or not, can employ 100 of our members. Not to mention the positive impact these plants have had on the local economies where they were built.

We envision Wisconsin as a progressive, forward-thinking state; a leader in energy policy. We envision energy policies that do not focus on banning one methodology or fuel-type, but rather policies that will incorporate all types that will help us achieve a better overall energy strategy. For example, our organization supports the use of numerous types of energy, including expanding Murphy Oil's facility in Superior, repealing the nuclear moratorium, examining wind farms and "clean coal."

We encourage you to examine future proposals individually, rather than to adopt a generic resolution that does nothing but restrict solutions to our energy deficit. This issue is too multi-faceted for a blanket resolution. A blanket resolution that opposes ethanol and the use of biofuels undermines the efforts of our Governor, our union and thousands of workers, farmers and Wisconsinites that have benefited from its presence.

The Wisconsin Pipe Trades Association (WPTA) and Milwaukee Locals 601, 75 and 183 oppose this resolution. Thank you for your time. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.

