



Senate of Pennsylvania

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Tom Wolf
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Enclosed is correspondence sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), based on the premise your Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would expeditiously submit the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for formal repeal of the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) gasoline regulations, commonly known as the 'summer gas' requirement for southwestern Pennsylvania. As you know Act 50 of 2014 became law with the intent of relieving motorists in southwestern Pennsylvania of unnecessary 'pain' at the pump. Four years later, that 'pain' is poised to continue as EPA waits on your DEP to submit the necessary paperwork to effectuate the Act.

In order to avoid an unnecessary increase in gasoline prices this summer, we request you urgently instruct your DEP to take any and all actions necessary to immediately submit the SIP to the EPA and formally request suspension of this unnecessary regulation through whatever waivers or notice may be needed. Despite the publishing in the April 21st bulletin, the lack of formal submission to EPA has caused confusion and uncertainty as to the status of the requirement.

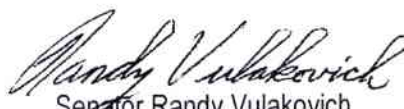
Surely you are as eager to avoid increasing gasoline prices for our mutual constituents as we are and understand our dismay over the length of time it has taken your DEP to formally submit this request to EPA.

The roughly 2.5 million residents of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties would certainly appreciate any and all efforts to provide relief of any more 'pain' at the gas pump this summer than is already being inflicted.

We appreciate your consideration of this urgent request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Senator Elder Vogel, Jr.
47th District


Senator Randy Vulakovich
38th District


Senator Don White
41st District

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of DEP
Mike Brunelle, Chief of Staff



April 4, 2018

Administrator Scott Pruitt
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1101A
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Consideration to revise Pennsylvania's State Implementation Plan to remove Gasoline Volatility Requirements

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write to you today to ask for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) consideration in accepting revisions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's State Implementation Plan (SIP) to finally eliminate unnecessary low Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) gasoline regulations while still maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set forth in the Clean Air Act.

We encourage the EPA to expeditiously review and issue a decision on the request to repeal the summer RVP specification for gasoline sold in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley area (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties). Pennsylvania's Act 50 of 2014 amended the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act (APCA), requiring our Department of Environmental Protection to begin the process of revising the State Implementation Plan and, upon the approval by EPA, repeal the provisions of 25 Pa. Code Ch. 126 Subchapter C (relating to gasoline volatility requirements). We encourage a final determination as soon as possible to facilitate the cessation of the low RVP fuel requirement. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has taken the appropriate procedural steps and provided the technical justifications needed for EPA to base its decision. A timely decision from EPA will help ensure adequate gasoline supplies through the transition to a summer specification fuel.

Gasoline sold in the Pittsburgh area in the summer months must meet lower RVP specifications by June 1, 2018 at retail, and May 1, 2018 at bulk facilities. In the Pittsburgh area, the existing requirements stipulate a 7.8 RVP gasoline at retail by June 1, 2018, and 9.0 RVP gasoline in the rest of the state. Pittsburgh benefits from in-state refineries that supply fuel, and gasoline supply is also brought into the Pittsburgh area from refiners in Ohio, the East Coast, and Gulf Coast regions. The transition to summer grade gasoline begins far in advance of the regulatory deadlines as refineries begin producing lower RVP fuels. The pipelines are also effected and need time to ship the fuel across the country. Fuel providers and the driving public will benefit from the regulatory certainty EPA can provide in advance of the transition to summertime fuel.

We are questioned all the time as to why gasoline prices in our region are so high when compared to the rest of the Commonwealth and our neighbors in Ohio and West Virginia. It is difficult for us to articulate to them the details of the SIP and how it requires a seven county region in Western Pennsylvania to use low-RVP gasoline after a 1-hour ozone NAAQS was violated in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area in 1995. The economic impact that could be made with the removal of the low-RVP requirement is hard to overstate. Families, businesses, and industry would all benefit, and we could all do so with no harm to our environment.

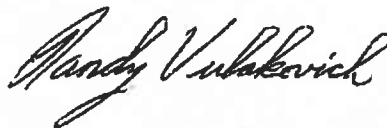
The EPA's current Tier 3 emissions standards coupled with onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) systems in today's vehicles have diminished the low-RVP gasoline benefits to almost none, with the Pennsylvania DEP stating that emissions reduction benefits of low-RVP gasoline will be zero by 2027. In addition, as of January 5, 2017, the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area has attained the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS based on certified 2013-2015 air quality data.

Thank you, Secretary Pruitt, for your consideration of this revised SIP and we would respectfully ask for your approval so that Western Pennsylvania can continue to prosper and stimulate economic growth while protecting our environment. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at your convenience.

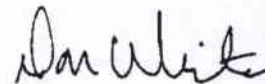
Sincerely,



Senator Elder Vogel Jr.
47th Senatorial District



Senator Randy Vulakovich
38th Senatorial District



Senator Don White
41st Senatorial District

Cc: Cosmo Servidio, EPA Region 3 Administrator
Kinshasa Brown, PA Liaison Region 3