TO: BOB PICKARD, District V Supervisor
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Banning Use of MTBE in Gasoline; Res. 99-54

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPosa COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTED THIS Order on February 16, 1999

ACTION AND VOTE:

Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to the request received from RCRC for support to ban the use of MTBE in gasoline. (M)Stewart, (S)Balmain, Board waived rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing to consider this request, finding it was not known at the time the agenda was prepared and it is a matter of timeliness due to pending legislation/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker. Following discussion, (M)Balmain, (S)Stewart, Res. 99-54 adopted supporting SB 272 (Leslie) to ban the additive MTBE in gasoline/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker.

cc: File
February 16, 1999

The Honorable Tim Leslie
1st Senatorial District
Post Office Box 942848
Sacramento, California 94248-001

Dear Senator Leslie:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on February 16, 1999, took a position to oppose the use of the additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) in gasoline. The four Board of Supervisors present all supported the action.

The Board recognizes that air quality is vital to everyone, but not at the expense of our water quality. Contamination into the ground caused by MTBE leaks from underground storage tanks, lines and fueling stations is a real threat to the health of not only the residents of the State of California, but to the many visitors who come to our state.

It is our understanding that you will be introducing legislation to ban the use of MTBE in the State of California. We sincerely appreciate your taking this stand and fully support your position.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BOB PICKARD
Chairman

BP/mbh

cc: Regional Council of Rural Counties
    California State Association of Counties

bcc: Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board
MEMORANDUM

To: RCRC President Ray Nutting
RCRC Delegates

From: David R. French, Governmental Affairs

Date: February 9, 1999

Re: MTBE Legislation – SB 272

Senator Tim Leslie has introduced legislation (SB 272), sponsored by RCRC, to ban the use of MTBE in California. As was requested at the last RCRC Board Meeting, it is very important that all counties send a legislative support letter to Senator Leslie ASAP.

The bill would make it a misdemeanor to use MTBE, or ether, in gasoline. SB 272 contains an urgency clause, which means it would take effect immediately upon being signed into law. Senator Leslie’s district includes South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District, which has been forced to shut down 13 of its 34 wells due to MTBE contamination or the threat of contamination.

For your reference, I have attached a copy of the legislation and a copy of a letter submitted by Mono County. Please send your support letter to Senator Leslie’s office by February 12th. (Please copy RCRC on all letters sent.)
January 28, 1999

The Honorable Tim Leslie
1st Senatorial District
P. O. Box 942848
Sacramento, Ca 94248-001

Dear Senator Leslie:

The Mono County Board of Supervisor on January 19, 1999, voted unanimously to oppose the use of the additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) to gasoline.

The Board is extremely concerned with MTBE's hazard to the environment especially its contamination of drinking water wells. Contamination into the ground caused by MTBE leaks from underground storage tanks, lines and fueling station is a real threat to the health of not only the residents of the State of California but to the many visitors who come to our state.

It is our understanding that you will be introducing legislation to ban the use of MTBE in the State of California. We sincerely appreciate your taking this stand and fully support your position.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. INWOOD
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of Mono

Cc: Regional Council of Rural Counties
    California State Association of Counties
CODE SECTIONS:
An act to add Section 43013.3 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to pollution, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

SUMMARY:
Makes it a misdemeanor for any person to sell gasoline containing MTBE.

DIGEST:
SB 272, as introduced, Leslie. Pollution: MTBE.
1. Existing law authorizes the State Air Resources Board, among other things, to adopt and implement motor vehicle fuel specifications for the control of air contaminants and sources of air pollution.
   This bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person to sell gasoline containing MTBE. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
2. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.
   This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.
3. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.
   State-mandated local program: yes.

STATUS:
02/01/1999 INTRODUCED.
February 16, 1999

The Honorable Tim Leslie  
1st Senatorial District  
Post Office Box 942848  
Sacramento, California 94248-001

Dear Senator Leslie:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on February 16, 1999, voted unanimously to oppose the use of the additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) to gasoline.

The Board recognizes that air quality is vital to everyone, but not at the expense of our water quality. Contamination into the ground caused by MTBE leaks from underground storage tanks, lines and fueling stations is a real threat to the health of not only the residents of the State of California, but to the many visitors who come to our state.

It is our understanding that you will be introducing legislation to ban the use of MTBE in the State of California. We sincerely appreciate your taking this stand and fully support your position.

Sincerely,

BOB PICKARD  
Chairman

BP/mbh

cc: Regional Council of Rural Counties  
California State Association of Counties