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For Immediate Release
February 25th, 2015

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State Legislators send letter to Wisconsin Representatives and Senators: Stop EPA from burdening Wisconsin drivers

Madison - Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin), along with 18 other state legislators across Wisconsin, sent a letter to Wisconsin's Representatives and Senators asking them to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the EPA's authority to impose unnecessary "maintenance of effort" programs.

"These outdated requirements are mandated and enforced because of the ever growing reach of our federal government and its tendency to create programs that continue into perpetuity long after their usefulness has expired," the letter said.

The EPA imposed the vehicle emissions testing requirements in Door, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington and Waukesha Counties because of high of ozone levels. Although the EPA has acknowledged all but small portions of Sheboygan and Kenosha Counties meet the ozone testing standards, the EPA has mandated continuation of the emissions testing. No end date has been specified by the EPA.

The letter pointed out that all recently manufactured cars are unlikely to be an ozone problem. The potentially problematic older cars that are the main producers of ozone are mostly either exempt from testing for technological reasons or were taken off the road during the "Cash for Clunker's" program years ago.

"This regulation is a textbook example of a government agency maintaining and enforcing a regulation long after any useful purpose has passed," Representative Joe Sanfelippo said. "Congress has the power to pass a law relieving Wisconsin citizens of this onerous obligation and we implore all of Wisconsin's federal lawmakers of both parties to stand up for their constituents."

Representative Joe Sanfelippo represents the 15th Assembly District. The 15th Assembly District contains portions of both the City of West Allis and the City of New Berlin.

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