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## **Rep. Tittl Approves Propane Assistance Program for Middle Class**

**MANITOWOC** - A new emergency heating assistance program for middle class families is a step closer to reality thanks to the support from Rep. Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc). [Assembly Bill 770](#) would help Wisconsin homeowners obtain low-interest loans, guaranteed in part by the state, to buy propane and other heating supplies.

According to the U.S Energy Information Association (EIA), propane prices reached almost \$6 per gallon in early February. That's more than \$4 higher than its usual price.

"The propane crisis has resulted in serious financial problems for many Wisconsin families," said Rep. Tittl. "Although there are programs in place to help low income individuals, this bill extends help to middle class families too."

That crisis prompted Governor Walker to declare a state of emergency declaration opening the door to a \$3 million loan guarantee program aimed at propane dealers.

This new legislation targets consumers who don't qualify for low-income assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program. It allows homeowners to secure a guaranteed loan up to \$2,500 through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority and only have to pay a portion of the interest rate charged. To qualify, the individual's household income cannot exceed 200 percent of the median household income in the county in which the individual resides.

"When the propane shortage came to light, constituents began calling my office looking for help," said Rep. Tittl. "The bill we passed today will be good news for them."

Assembly and Senate Republicans have been working with the administration to respond quickly to the problem. The bill is now on the fast track to becoming law. AB 770 was introduced on Monday and approved in the Joint Finance Committee on Wednesday. The Assembly approved the measure Thursday evening in a bipartisan vote.

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