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May 26, 2006

Ald. Tony Zielinski  
(414) 286-2873

# Milwaukee May Help Lead The Way To Energy Independence

## *Ald. Zielinski Wants City To Buy Flex-Fuel Vehicles*

“Ethanol is going to be the wave of the future and I want Milwaukee to be a leader in the use of this alternate fuel,” said Ald. Tony Zielinski. “It will help us kick our oil addiction, reduce city energy costs, save taxpayer dollars, provide jobs and a market for Wisconsin farmers.”

That comment from Ald. Zielinski as he announced plans to introduce a Common Council resolution that would require all city departments in the future to purchase flexible fuel vehicles where practical. These vehicles can operate on either regular gasoline or E-85 fuel, which contains 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline.

**Ald. Zielinski will detail his proposal at a news conference next Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Citgo Station at 1009 S. 1st St., where owner Jay Walia will be converting an existing gas pump to an E-85 fueling station. Joining Ald. Zielinski will be Maria Redmond of the State of Wisconsin Alternate Fuels program, Doug Dittrich, representing General Motors Fleet Operations-North Central Region, DPW Buildings and Fleet Superintendent Venu Gupta and representatives of the Wisconsin Ethanol Coalition. Other aldermen may also be in attendance. Media coverage is welcome.**

Earlier this year Gov. Jim Doyle issued an executive order that requires all state agencies to reduce the use of petroleum-based gasoline in the state’s vehicle fleet by 20% by 2010 and by 50% by 2015. While there are price fluctuations in all blends of gasoline, the governor’s office said E-85 is generally between \$.11 and \$.50 cheaper than regular leaded blend.

(more)

## **Flex-Fuel Plans/ADD ONE**

“National auto executives have already endorsed a plan to have renewable fuels meet 25% of the nation’s transportation energy needs by 2025,” said Ald. Zielinski. “ I want to offer these American companies kudos for pushing flex-fuel products which will have American companies helping to establish a market for American products.” General Motors has produced over 1.5 million flexible fuel vehicles since 2002, about 500,000 of them at the GM plant in Janesville.

GM, Ford and Daimler-Chrysler have said they’ve already produced 5 million vehicles capable of running on corn-based ethanol blends. Ald. Zielinski says other countries are investing heavily on research into the production of ethanol products in their countries, and he points to Brazil, which he says no longer imports any foreign oil because of its use of ethanol.

“The goal of my ordinance is not only to replace city-owned vehicles with those that operate with a cleaner-burning, sustainable alternative fuel,” said Ald. Zielinski, “But the city would be able to lead by example in making economically and environmentally responsible purchasing decisions which will encourage individuals, businesses and other levels of government to do the same.”

Ald. Zielinski says flexible fuel vehicles would bring about numerous benefits:

- + Ethanol would be a key step in reducing reliance on foreign oil.
- + While there are price fluctuations, E-85 is generally cheaper than regular unleaded.
- + City would save enormous amounts of money, resulting in savings to taxpayers.
- + Provide an additional market for Wisconsin’s corn and other agricultural crops.
- + Stimulate the state economy and provide jobs.

The ordinance is expected to be introduced at the May 31, 2006 Common Council meeting where it would be referred to committee for a public hearing.