

1 [Urging an immediate ban on gasoline additive MTBE ]  
2 URGING GOVERNOR-ELECT GRAY DAVIS AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO URGE  
3 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT WITH ALL DUE SPEED IN IMMEDIATELY  
4 BANNING THE USE OF THE GASOLINE ADDITIVE METHYL TERTIARY BUTYL-ETHER  
5 (MTBE)  
6

7 WHEREAS, In December, 1997, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors officially  
8 supported Representative Bilbray's and Senator Feinstein's legislation to reduce or eliminate  
9 the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl-ether (MTBE) to reduce possible carcinogenic  
10 hazards and other potential health risks to the residents of the City and County of San  
11 Francisco (Res. No. 1122-97); and,

12 WHEREAS, MTBE appears to cause cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals;  
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, Officials at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board  
15 expressed dismay at the speed at which MTBE spread through aquifers as it leaks from faulty  
16 underground fuel tanks; and,

17 WHEREAS, A recent University of California study, commissioned by the California  
18 State Legislature and the Governor's Office, states that MTBE endangers the State's drinking  
19 water, has already affected at least 10,000 groundwater sites throughout the State (75% of  
20 245 sampling sites at wells state-wide show detectable levels of MTBE and, in Santa Monica,  
21 7 water wells have been closed), and could worsen water shortages during drought years;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The report also concludes that technical advances in new automobile  
24 emission controls and combustion systems, and in new gasoline formulations, have  
25 dramatically decreased the air quality benefits associated with adding oxygenates to gasoline,

1 making the potential for water contamination by MTBE a cost that is not offset by a  
2 corresponding benefit; and

3 WHEREAS, UC researchers say MTBE is not a necessary ingredient in the cleaner-  
4 burning formulas; that ethanol can work as well, as can nonoxygenated formulas; thus, there  
5 is no significant additional air quality benefit of the use of oxygenates such as MTBE in  
6 reformulated gasoline; and

7 WHEREAS, Officials of the Air Resources Board, which sets the fuel standards, agree  
8 that, as long as gasoline meets the State's emission standards, they do not care if it contains  
9 MTBE or some other oxygenate; and

10 MTBE could be disruptive to gas supplies and prices is not a sufficiently compelling  
11 argument for gradual elimination of MTBE considering the high probability of the catastrophic  
12 degradation of our water supply;

13 WHEREAS, The claim by oil companies that the immediate banning of MTBE could be  
14 disruptive to gas supplies and prices is not a sufficiently compelling argument for gradual  
15 elimination of MTBE considering the high probability of the catastrophic degradation of our  
16 water supply; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor-Elect Gray  
18 Davis and the State Legislature to urge the Federal Government to act with all due speed in  
19 not only eliminating the requirement of MTBE in gasoline but immediately banning its use.  
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23  
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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 982051

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging Governor-Elect Gray Davis and the State Legislature to urge the Federal Government to act with all due speed in immediately banning the use of the gasoline additive Methyl Tertiary Butyl-Ether (MTBE).

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December 14, 1998 Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE AGENDA

December 14, 1998 Board of Supervisors — REFERRED: Health, Family, and Environment Committee

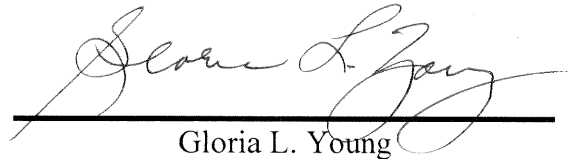
February 8, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Katz

File No. 982051

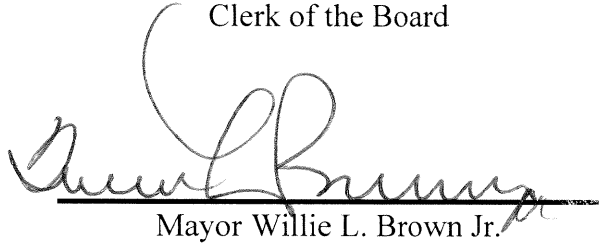
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 8, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

FEB 19 1999

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

File No. 982051 continued...