SENATE HIGHWAYS
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Top seven reasons ethanol is not good for Montana

1.) The problem with ethanol or any "renewable" energy sources is that when you need them, they aren't there. For example, the Chicago-Milwaukee ethanol market saw gasoline prices increase 25 cents/gallon over the national average during the summer of 2000 because supply difficulties. Brazil actually shifted from running on gasoline to running on ethanol and the first time there was a crop failure Brazil was in a heap of trouble. Before they could convert back, Brazil nearly went bankrupt.

2.) Despite its "renewable fuel" billing, producing ethanol consumes as much energy as it yields as a finished fuel. According to a study by David Pimentel, a professor of insect ecology and agricultural science at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York that appears in the third edition of the Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology, published in October 2001, 1.7 times more energy is required to grow and process corn and then distill the ethanol than is obtained from burning it. "The myth is that ethanol frees us from dependence on oil, yet we actually import oil to run ethanol plants and grow corn," Pimentel says.

3.) Lower fuel economy (by as much as 2-5 %) should be expected for ethanol blended gasoline versus conventional gasoline.

4.) Ethanol blends evaporate readily; therefore, using ethanol increases refiner production costs and reduces operating flexibility. Ethanol's high affinity for water does not allow blending at the refinery, nor transportation through the existing nation-wide gasoline pipeline infrastructure. Ethanol must be stored in segregated tanks, can only be transported by rail or truck and must be blended into gasoline at the terminal or retail station.

5.) Ethanol emits more harmful smog-forming emissions in the summertime due to its high tendency to evaporate. A National Research Council study found that increased use of ethanol in gasoline would contribute to greater summertime smog levels in our cities. With EPA's new and enhanced ozone ambient standards this mandate could put several Montana locations at risk of non-attainment (Missoula, Kalispell, and Billings). Ethanol also can contribute to increased NOx emissions.

6.) The presence of ethanol in gasoline contaminating groundwater is expected to increase plumes of gasoline components (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes) by 25% since ethanol is the preferentially biodegraded. Ethanol also can contribute to increased NOx emissions.

7.) Even with the federal subsidy of $0.51 per gallon of ethanol blended the cost of gasoline would be expected to raise by 5 to 8 cents per gallon a cost of 30 to 50 million dollars annually to Montana drivers.

So in conclusion if you wish to make your gasoline supply as reliable as rain fall in north-central Montana with significant price instability mandate ethanol and in the process you will be subsidizing large ethanol producers in the Midwest with out benefiting Montana farmers.