

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 000188)

## RESOLUTION

**Calling for hearings by the Committee on Law and Government on the health effects of MTBE on Philadelphians.**

WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the use of reformulated gasoline with oxygen additives in areas of the United States, including Philadelphia, that have substantial ozone pollution; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) was ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency to be put in gasoline in 16 states with high air pollution to curtail excessive carbon monoxide exhaust from automobiles and trucks; and

WHEREAS, MTBE was found to pollute ground water through leaks from underground storage tanks or spills while refueling motor vehicles, boats, lawnmowers and open containers; and

WHEREAS, MTBE and its derivatives, particularly, methyl nitrite, an extremely toxic substance, appear to be causing respiratory illnesses, headaches, nausea, asthma, bronchitis and sinus problems from the exhaust and fumes from cars burning MTBE; and

WHEREAS, The cases of asthma, particularly in children, are skyrocketing throughout Philadelphia and the cities using MTBE; and

WHEREAS, Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, recently called for the banning of MTBE because it poses a risk to public health and the environment; however, she expects the ban to take up to 3 years to implement; therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Law & Government Committee hold hearings to investigate the health and environmental risks associated with Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether and its derivatives, and to urge speedy implementation of the ban on MTBE.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 000188 continued*

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-second of June, 2000.

Anna C. Verna  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Council President Verna, Goode, Miller, Reynolds Brown, Ortiz, Krajewski, Nutter, Clarke, Tasco, Kenney, DiCicco, O'Neill, Rizzo and Blackwell

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*RESOLUTION NO. 000188 continued*