



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 10, 2009
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1467

RELATING TO PROPERLY INFLATED TIRES.

Bill No. 1467

Support Y N

Date 2/9

Time 5:59p

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Type 1 (2) WI

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) has concerns about HB 1467, which would require retail service stations to provide free tire inflation devices and pressure gauges for use by their customers.

Although properly inflated tires have been shown to improve vehicle fuel efficiency and vehicle handling and to reduce tire wear, proper vehicle maintenance is the responsibility of vehicle owners and operators. Consumers need information and motivation to act.

According to Goodyear¹,

Research reveals that motorists rank tires as the second-most important safety feature on vehicles next to brakes, yet only a third of consumers properly check their tire inflation pressure.

Improper air pressure in tires can lead to a multitude of problems, including uneven and accelerated tire wear, structural damage and even poor gas mileage.

¹ http://www.goodyear.com/corporate/about/responsibility/gy_corpresp_en07.pdf

Checking tires for proper inflation and tread condition is one of the most critical – and easiest – maintenance procedures for a consumer...

Goodyear recommends motorists check tire inflation monthly or before a long trip. Tires should be inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations printed on the vehicle door placard or in the owner's manual, not the maximum limit stamped on a tire sidewall.

Proper maintenance of vehicles and tires translates into increased automotive safety, optimum driving performance and significant cost savings, including better fuel mileage.

And, according to a 2007 report by the United States Government Accountability Office,²

More than a quarter of automobiles and about a third of light trucks (including sport utility vehicles, vans, and pickup trucks) on the roadways of the United States have one or more tires underinflated 8 pounds per square inch (psi) or more below the level recommended by the vehicle manufacturer...

According to tire experts, under normal driving conditions, air-filled tires can lose from 1 to 2 psi per month as air permeates through the tires...

In addition, the International Tire and Rubber Association reported that underinflation was the "single most common" factor in tire failure. Further, NHTSA reported that underinflation influences skidding, hydroplaning, increased stopping distance, flat tires, and blowouts...

DOE's designated economist on this issue estimates that vehicles with underinflated tires waste approximately 1.2 billion gallons of fuel per year due to the increased resistance of the tires."

The energy, environmental, and economic challenges that we face require that we work together. Voluntary investment in this equipment by fuel providers would enable use by knowledgeable consumers.

We are concerned that some of the smaller volume fuel providers, such as those at boat docks or air fields, could face hardship if this requirement were to take effect; we recommend that some thought be given to whether smaller volume fuel providers or those providing fuel for non-automotive may be exempt or be allowed to request exemptions from the requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

² <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07246r.pdf>



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February 10, 2009

Testimony to: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President

Re: HB 1467 RELATING TO INFLATED TIRES

Chairs & Committee Members:

Bill No. 1467

Support Y N

Date 2/9/09

Time 8:00p

Cat AF AS AX BC

Type 1 WI

While we oppose requiring service stations being required to provide tire pressure gauges free, we do not oppose requiring service stations to sell tire pressure gauges, or to have air compressors with tire gauges attached, available to customers for a fee, which are usually twenty-five to fifty cents.

Government should not mandate unless government is willing to fund. This measure is an unfunded mandate.