

# Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce: responds to Gov. Evers vetoing pro-consumer energy bills

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**MADISON** – Today, Governor Evers vetoed three bills – AB 141, AB 142, and SB 49 – that would have protected consumer access to gas-powered vehicles and equipment, as well as access to natural gas for home heating. In response, Craig Summerfield, WMC’s Director of Environmental & Energy Policy, released the following statement:

*“Wisconsin’s business community is deeply disappointed by the vetoes of these pro-consumer energy bills. AB 141 and AB 142 were supported by a broad coalition of business trade organizations and vehicle enthusiasts, as the overwhelming majority of Wisconsin businesses and consumers depend on gas-powered motor vehicles and products. The bills simply ensured continued consumer access to affordable and reliable leaf blowers, lawn mowers, snow blowers, cars, motorcycles, trucks and many other products.*

*“In addition, the veto of SB 49 is just as troubling, as it would have protected consumer access to natural gas. The natural gas distribution system is especially reliable, and 75% of Wisconsin homes use natural gas. Twenty-four states enacted similar legislation to SB 49 with bipartisan support – making today’s veto all the more perplexing.*

*“Energy decisions should be dictated by energy consumers, not heavy-handed government mandates. Today’s vetoes are a step backward for Wisconsin businesses, families and every consumer seeking to use the most affordable and reliable energy products.”*

Specifically, the bills would have done the following:

- SB 49 – Prohibit state/local restrictions on utility service based on the energy source. For example, the bill would prohibit a municipal ban on natural gas service lines.
- AB 141 – Prohibit state/local restrictions on the sale or use of a device based on the energy source, such as a ban on a gas-powered leaf blower or lawn mower.
- AB 142 – Prohibit state/local restrictions on the sale or use of motor vehicles based on the power source, such as a ban on gas-powered cars or trucks.