



County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
138 EAST COURT STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Dusty Rhodes, Hamilton County Auditor (513-946-4047)

RHODES SEEKS AUTHORITY TO TEST FUEL QUALITY

Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes is asking State legislators to include permissive authority for County Auditors to test fuel quality for octane and purity in any legislation increasing the state gas tax.

He noted Ohio is one of only three states (Nebraska and Alaska being the others) that has no fuel quality testing making Ohio susceptible to being “the dumping ground for bad gasoline and fuel.”

“How can we expect the public to pay still more when we cannot assure them of what they are buying?” asked Rhodes.

County Auditors already test fuel dispensers for quantity under existing Weights and Measures authority. “We can test for quality at the same time we test for quantity at little additional cost and provide a positive step for consumer protection,” he said.

“The fuel quality check involves dropping a water test sensor in the ground tank and using a handheld device to check for octane compliance,” he added.

Rhodes said County Auditors have been seeking this permissive authority from the State for years. He added, “Proposed legislation was most recently short-circuited by Petroleum Institute lobbyists in 2006 by placing fuel quality testing authority with the Department of Agriculture.

“Aside from the expense of hiring inspectors (which County Auditors already have), the State provided no funding for fuel quality testing and the Director never bothered to adopt the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) standards which are required before they could begin testing.

“So the previous legislation was a cynical act of pretend consumer protection which they knew could not and would not be implemented,” Rhodes said.

The Ohio Township Association and the Hamilton County Farm Bureau support giving fuel quality testing authority to County Auditors.

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