



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

## Senate Republicans urge Hochul to Suspend Gas Tax as Fuel Prices Soar

ANDREW J. LANZA October 21, 2021



ALBANY — Republican leaders in New York's Senate are calling for Gov. Kathy Hochul to suspend the state's tax on fuel as prices soar at the gas pump and experts are expecting home heating bills this winter to be financially devastating for many residents and business owners.

New York Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort and Deputy Minority Leader Andrew Lanza wrote a letter to Hochul, dated Tuesday, that said by "suspending our state's gas tax, we can work to recover economically from the pandemic, helping businesses and families across the state." [Read More](#)



## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

October 19, 2021

Hon. Kathy Hochul  
Governor, State of New York  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Governor Hochul:

As we are sure you are aware, gas prices across the state have skyrocketed over the past year. The average price of a gallon of gas in New York is \$3.43, well above the \$2.25 per gallon average from just a year ago and the highest since 2014.

Contributing to these rising prices are our state and local sales taxes, adding approximately 46 cents per gallon in NY, among the nation's highest. By suspending our state's gas tax, we can work to recover economically from the pandemic, helping businesses and families across the state.

The lost revenue from the suspension of the gas tax can be backfilled by some of the \$8 billion budget surplus so that municipalities will not be negatively affected.

Families are already dealing with rising prices from everything from groceries to the cost of heating their homes. Families and businesses cannot afford higher gas prices, which play a major role in the economy in terms of the transportation of goods, bolstering tourism, or helping the people of New York return to work.

An example of a state that recently suspended the state's gas tax is Georgia. In May, Georgia's Governor temporarily suspended the state tax on gas in an effort to level the gas prices and help families and businesses. That too can be replicated to work here in New York.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Ort in black ink.

Robert Ort  
Senate Republican Leader

Handwritten signature of Andrew Lanza in black ink.

Andrew Lanza  
Senate Deputy Republican Leader