



May 22, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: Suspension of the State Gas Tax**

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to urge you to suspend state taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel to provide relief to New York drivers who are facing high prices at the pump. New Yorkers are currently paying \$4.60 per gallon for gasoline and nearly \$6 for a gallon of diesel, placing a financial burden on drivers, families and businesses across the State.

While we believe these price increases will be temporary, it remains imperative that the State takes action to ease the financial burden to New York families and businesses.

The last time gasoline prices in New York reached \$5 per gallon, during the Biden Administration, the State implemented a temporary fuel tax holiday that you strongly supported. At the time you stated:

“Fuel prices have surged in recent months, hurting working families and small businesses the most and it is critical that we provide New Yorkers relief by suspending certain fuel taxes for the next seven months, New York is providing \$609 million in direct relief to New Yorkers – a critical lifeline for those who need it the most.”

In 2022, the State estimated the fuel tax suspension provided a reduction of at least \$0.16 per gallon statewide.

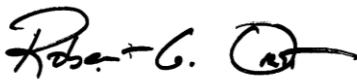
There is no question that New York households are struggling with the cost of gas prices at the pump and diesel prices indirectly through increasing prices of consumer goods. Motor fuel is not

a discretionary expense for most who must travel to work and travel to deal with life's daily needs. Diesel costs hit consumers through the increased transportation costs of goods which show up in the prices at food markets and other retail purchases.

Several counties have recognized the urgency of this situation and are providing sales tax relief including Dutchess, Onondaga, Rockland, Putnam and Ulster Counties.

We urge you to work with us to suspend state taxes on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel and provide some financial relief to New York drivers, families and businesses.


Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Andrew Lanza  
24<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Pam Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Anthony Palumbo  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Daniel G. Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> District



Senator William Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Peter Oberacker  
51<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Alexis Weik  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Dean Murray  
3<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mark Walczyk  
49<sup>th</sup> District



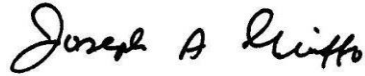
Senator George Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Steve Rhoads  
5<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mario Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> District



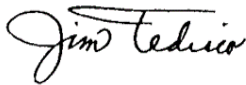
Senator Joseph Griffo  
53<sup>rd</sup> District



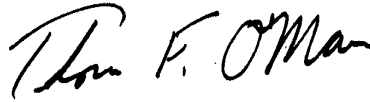
Senator Steve Chan  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jake Ashby  
43<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Jim Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Tom O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jack M. Martins  
7<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patrick Gallivan  
60<sup>th</sup> District