

**NEW YORK**  
**STATE**  
**SENATE**

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



May 12, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As the Leader and Deputy Leader of the New York State Senate Minority, we are writing to urge you to suspend the New York State gas tax.

As you may be aware, a recent ransomware attack caused a shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline, which has caused a national spike in gas prices. National gas prices have already risen six cents since the ransomware attack and threaten to further increase with potential supply shortages.

Gas prices in New York have now gone over three dollars a gallon – the first time in over six years that prices have reached this level. State and local sales taxes add approximately 20 cents per gallon in NY – among the nation’s highest. The pandemic has already placed serious pressure on our economy. Gas prices play a major role in our economy in terms of the transportation of goods, bolstering tourism, or helping the people of New York get back to work. Keeping our gas prices under control will undoubtedly assist with our ongoing economic recovery.

Recently Governor Brian Kemp, Governor of Georgia, suspended the State tax on gas in an effort to level the gas prices and help consumers and businesses.

We strongly urge you to consider similar action to provide relief and help the economy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Ort in black ink.

Robert Ort  
Senate Minority Leader

Handwritten signature of Andrew Lanza in black ink.

Andrew Lanza  
Senate Deputy Minority Leader