



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 11, 2022

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

Every day it is getting more and more difficult for Connecticut families to balance their household budgets as we face rising inflation and skyrocketing gas prices. The people of Connecticut need relief at the pump, and they need that relief today.

We are calling on you to immediately gather all four legislative caucus leaders together with the executive branch so that we can move forward with a vote on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 to temporarily suspend the state gross receipts tax on gasoline for the remainder of the fiscal year and provide relief directly to Connecticut drivers.

You indicated in press interviews and twitter videos that you want to talk to lawmakers about gas prices and potential relief. Yesterday, Republicans offered a concrete and achievable plan that meets your stated goals of relief for Connecticut families that we can afford in the near term while also maintaining investments in infrastructure.

Our proposal can be implemented immediately and is budget neutral. It does not jeopardize any infrastructure spending or investments. It does not require cuts to any programs, services, or projects. It stays within the parameters of the state's windfall of sales and gas tax revenue collected as a result of inflation and would direct those specified surplus funds to this targeted tax relief.

Yesterday you referenced the surplus revenue the state has as a result of inflation and the "high price of gas," stating "we've got additional revenues coming in. That means we can provide immediate relief for the people at the pump." The Republican plan does exactly that. It returns the inflation related windfall to taxpayers with immediate relief without the need to alter other spending or investments.

We are also proposing to embed in any legislation a requirement that any gas tax reduction is passed on to consumers from both wholesalers and retailers. In 2012 Connecticut passed strong legislation on price gouging and gave the state Attorney General the power to prosecute. By requiring savings be passed on to consumers, and defining any act not in compliance with that directive as price gouging, the Attorney General can enforce this law. In fact, just this week the Attorney General notified the public that they should be calling his office to report price gouging.

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Just as some Democrats on the national level are supporting a federal gas tax cut, we urge Democrats in Connecticut to join Republicans in supporting a state gas tax cut for the same benefits to our families. We also ask that you join us in calling for that federal relief and request that you immediately contact President Biden to urge him to adopt an immediate suspension of the federal gas tax to further help Connecticut residents, and Americans across the country.

Promises for tax credits or rebates in the future are insufficient and ignore the severity of the financial burdens that are crushing working and middle class families. Connecticut residents are making difficult choices every day to keep their family budgets intact. They need relief now, and the state is in a position to provide this relief immediately while still maintaining all infrastructure investments.

You must call all legislative leaders together now so that we can advance and vote on this tax relief on Wednesday when the legislature is next scheduled to meet.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader



Vincent J. Candelora
House Republican Leader

cc: Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff