



State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

July 22, 2008

Dear Legislator:

Attached is a petition calling for a special session to cut and cap the petroleum products gross receipts tax on gasoline. Pursuant to Article III of our state constitution and section 2-6 of the general statutes, if the Secretary of State receives signed petitions from a majority of the members of each house, she must call the legislature into special session. We urge you to sign this petition.

While there are several factors contributing to the high price of gasoline that are beyond the state's control, there is one factor directly within our control – state gas taxes.

Connecticut motorists pay more than 50 cents/gallon in state gas taxes. That amounts to more than \$7.50 every time they fill-up a 15-gallon fuel tank. And the State of Connecticut profits more from that purchase than the gas stations, credit card companies and federal government combined.

As you know, Connecticut levies two different taxes on gasoline. The first is a flat tax of 25 cents per gallon. The second tax, known as the Petroleum Gross Receipts Tax, is levied as a percentage of the wholesale price of gasoline. At the current rate of 7%, this second tax costs consumers approximately 26 cents per gallon. And, every time the price of gas increases, the tax goes up.

The Gross Receipts Tax was increased to pay for major transportation projects, but due to record gas prices, the state is taking in approximately \$200 million in windfall revenues. Today, nearly 60% of the revenue from this tax is quietly being kept in the General Fund and NOT being used for transportation initiatives as promised. It is past time to stop this practice.

Governor Rell said she will support a cap on state gas taxes. Legislative action remains the only barrier standing in the way.

Please join us in signing the attached petition today. Signatures are valid for only 30 days, so time is of the essence. Our goal is to hold special session as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John McKinney in black ink.

John McKinney
Senate Republican Leader

Handwritten signature of Lawrence F. Cafero Jr. in black ink.

Lawrence F. Cafero Jr.
House Republican Leader



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Connecticut General Assembly Petition for Special Session

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State
Room 104
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madame Secretary,

Pursuant to Article Third of the Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and section 2-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I judge it necessary to meet in a special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of enacting legislation:

1. To cut and cap the Petroleum Products Gross Receipts Tax and require that such tax reduction be passed on to consumers in order to provide immediate relief for Connecticut motorists.

Respectfully,

Signature

Printed Name and District

Date Signed