

James Gallagher
Assembly Republican Leader
Frank Bigelow
Phillip Chen
Steven S. Choi, Ph.D.
Jordan Cunningham
Megan Dahle
Laurie Davies
Heath Flora
Vince Fong



Kevin Kiley
Tom Lackey
Devon J. Mathis
Janet Nguyen
Jim Patterson
Kelly Seyarto
Thurston "Smitty" Smith
Suzette Martinez Valladares
Randy Voepel
Marie Waldron

October 10, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California, 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, California, 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, California, 95814

RE: Gas Prices and Concern with Call of Special Session

Dear Governor and Colleagues:

We write to reiterate our serious concerns with the way gas prices are impacting California families. Record high inflation combined with \$100+ fuel bills are straining family budgets and causing substantial financial hardships. We are respectfully requesting you to reconsider your denial of our proposals to suspend the state's gas tax, which is now adding \$.54 cents to every gallon of gas.

It is especially disturbing that the Governor has called a Special Legislative Session with the goal of increasing taxes on December 5. The only reason why a Special Legislative Session on gas prices is warranted is to suspend the gas tax, reduce the fees and regulations that make California gas so much more expensive, and allow permits to increase production to lower gas prices. This Special Session to raise taxes should be called off immediately.

Let's be clear about what is actually causing high fuel prices: California policy decisions. Today, Californians are paying over \$2.41 more for a gallon of gas more than the rest of the nation. Reports show that the fuel price differential between California and the national average recently hit a new record. Any attempt to deflect away from this reality is insulting to struggling Californians who are well aware that Florida and Texas drivers are paying around \$3 per gallon. The decision to begin distributing winter-blend gasoline earlier than usual is helpful, but much more must be done.

Finally, motorists deserve a full and immediate audit of gas tax expenditures. Californians pay the highest gas taxes in the nation, all in the name of improving roads and highways. However, a

report issued last week ranked California dead last in road quality. It's completely unacceptable that 44% of California's roads are in poor condition, the most of any state in the U.S.

California deserves better.

Sincerely,



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assembly Republican Leader
District 03



Assemblymember Megan Dahle
District 01



Assemblymember Kevin Kiley
District 06



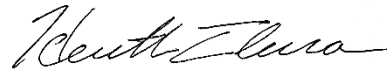
Assemblymember Jim Patterson
District 23



Assemblymember Thurston Smith
District 33



Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
District 5



Assemblymember Heath Flora
District 12



Assemblymember Devon Mathis
District 26



Assemblymember Vince Fong
District 34



Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham
District 35



Assemblymember Suzette Valladares
District 38



Assemblymember Kelly Seyarto
District 67



Assemblymember Randy Voepel
District 71



Assemblymember Laurie Davies
District 73



Assemblymember Tom Lackey
District 36



Assemblymember Phillip Chen
District 55



Assemblymember Steven Choi
District 68



Assemblymember Janet Nguyen
District 72



Assemblymember Marie Waldron
District 75