

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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November 3, 2021

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Suspension of Gas Tax

Dear Governor Hochul:

As the costs of living—and working—are rapidly rising throughout the State at a time that many families are still reeling from the economic devastation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, I am writing to you in regards to action that you could take that would provide immediate relief to New Yorkers in need. Respectfully, I urge you to suspend the State gas tax to help alleviate the overwhelming financial burden many in our State are currently facing.

Given that the costs of fuel underly the costs of so many aspects of our daily lives, from filling up our tanks to drive to work or to take our children to school, to increasing the transportation costs of the groceries we buy, it is critical now, more than ever, that these costs are kept under control. The average price of gasoline has already increased by more than \$1 since last year and is the highest it has been in seven years. While the State cannot control all the factors contributing to the increased costs of living, the State gas tax is directly within the State's control, and you have the authority to suspend this extra burden on hardworking New Yorkers.

New York State's gas tax is in the top 10 of highest gas taxes in the nation. Unfortunately, this should not come as a surprise as New York is generally ranked among the highest tax burdens in the United States across the board. However, it is unconscionable for the State to expect New Yorkers to continue to shoulder these ever-rising costs at the same time that the State hauled in a more than \$7 billion surplus in unexpected tax revenue, according to the State Comptroller. For far too long, the State has forced New Yorkers to pinch pennies while State Government continued to spend more and more, but New Yorkers have already sacrificed more than could have been expected to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is time the State delivers them much needed relief.

There is no question that you have come into your position at one of the most challenging times our State has faced, and it is my hope that you will use your authority to take action that will directly help New Yorkers immediately now, when they need it most. Suspending the gas tax could save New Yorkers hundreds of dollars each year and will go a long way for families currently struggling to make ends meet in the wake of the pandemic.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter, and I stand ready to partner with you to provide New Yorkers with desperately needed relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Serino".

Senator Sue Serino  
41<sup>st</sup> District