

House Republican Press Release

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**REPS. FLOREN, GIBBONS AND POWERS: SUPPORT HOUSE  
REPUBLICAN GAS TAX HOLIDAY**



**“Stops 25 Cent Gas Tax for Summer”**

**HARTFORD-**With another looming spike in gas prices this spring, State Representatives Livvy R. Floren, R-149<sup>th</sup> District, Lile R. Gibbons, R-150<sup>th</sup> District and Claudia “Dolly” Powers, R- 151<sup>st</sup> District, along with the House Republican caucus today called for a Memorial

Day state tax holiday for the summer peak driving season to give motorists relief at the pumps.

The state of Connecticut currently has the appalling distinction of having the third highest gasoline tax in the nation and 7<sup>th</sup> highest gas prices in the country. Greenwich drivers at present are paying anywhere from \$3.40 to \$3.60 for a gallon of unleaded gasoline.

Amid, the announcement last week of new higher revenue projections and the pain drivers continue to feel from the ever-increasing gas prices, Connecticut should stop collecting the 25 cents per gallon now levied for the summer driving season. House Republican Leader Lawrence F. Cafero said the savings would be significant and Connecticut can afford it.

It is estimated that the tax cuts would save drivers about \$40 million per month, or a little more than \$120 million for the duration of the summer driving period. Last week, the non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis revised revenue projections to show that, Connecticut now has a surplus this year of \$846 million which would easily cover the lost revenue. The gas tax moratorium would not divert any funds from any current or future transportation program.

“Connecticut drivers are painfully reminded of the high gas prices every time they fill up,” said Rep. Dolly Powers. “The time to cut this tax is long overdue. We’ve called for relief before. Let’s cut it now. The state can afford it, the taxpayers deserve it, and it’s fair. This cut would mean a savings of \$3.00 every time you fill up a car with a 12-gallon tank; \$3.75 on a 15-gallon; \$4.25 on a 17-gallon; and \$5.00 on a 20-gallon tank.”

House Republicans are particularly concerned about the effect the gas tax has on the state’s economy and our economic competitiveness with other states. For instance, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association recently reported that the rising cost of

gasoline prices is having a negative effect on small businesses.

“From the state’s point of view, if consumers in bordering towns are seeking lower gas prices in neighboring states, then they are most likely purchasing other goods and services there as well. In turn, this adversely affects the economic growth of our small businesses and takes more money out of the state’s economy,” said Rep. Floren.

The legislature has until June 6 to finalize the two-year budget and the timing of this proposal is ideal. “If we move forward now we can show Connecticut motorists we have their best interests in mind,” Rep. Gibbons said.