

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Harkins Urges Action to Lower Connecticut's Highest in the Nation Gas Taxes**



HARTFORD- State Rep. John Harkins (R-120) said the state legislature can still act to lower Connecticut's highest in the nation gas taxes that contribute to making Connecticut's gasoline prices the highest in the nation.

Connecticut motor fuels taxes are set to increase again as scheduled on July 1.

The average price of gasoline in Connecticut has risen above \$4.25, while gasoline across the border in Massachusetts and Rhode Island recently has been as low as \$3.90 per gallon.

“The Democrats in the House and Senate have said that a reduction in gas tax rates wouldn't help anyone, and would be mere pennies,” said Harkins. “But this adds up to several dollars every time you fill up your tank, and that does make a difference, particularly for those with low incomes who are hit hardest by high energy costs.”

Connecticut fuel taxes are scheduled to rise as follows:

- Two state taxes on gasoline combined go from about 61 cents a gallon to about 65 cents a gallon (on top of 18.4 cents federal gasoline tax.)
- A state tax on diesel fuel goes from 37 cents a gallon to 44.7 cents a gallon (on top of 24.4 cents federal diesel tax).

Rep. Harkins has proposed freezing Connecticut's gasoline taxes so that an increase would not take effect, and therefore provide some measure of relief to hard working middle class families.

Harkins has supported an alternative state budget that meets the needs of the state's citizens while holding down taxes. The majority in the legislature opposed this budget alternative.

“There is no reason that Connecticut should have the highest gasoline prices in the nation,” said Harkins. “This hurts individuals, small businesses, and our entire economic infrastructure.”