

House Republican Press Release

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REPS. CARSON, GIEGLER: CONSUMERS NEED GAS TAX MORATORIUM



HARTFORD – On Monday, May 14, State Reps Mary Ann Carson (R-108) Janice Giegler (R-138) joined House Republican leaders in calling for a Memorial Day to Labor Day moratorium on the state gasoline tax for the summer peak driving season to give motorists relief at the pumps. Given the state’s higher revenue projections released last week and increasing impact of gas prices on consumers, Connecticut should stop collecting the 25 cents per gallon now levied for the summer driving season, said Reps. Carson and Giegler.

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 transportation program. The Legislature has until June 6 to finalize the two-year budget.

“As Governor Rell is also pursuing federal action on this issue, a way that we as legislators can help our constituents would be to cut the gas tax for the summer driving season, when people spend much more time traveling,” said Rep. Carson. “Over the course of the three months, the cut would represent savings that people can appreciate and I’m hopeful it can be worked into the budget that is now being prepared.”

“Since so much of the state surplus is derived from the Gross Receipts Tax, it is appropriate that the proceeds be passed on to consumers,” said Rep. Giegler. “The high cost of gasoline is impacting the price of many goods and services and now more than ever, small businesses that operate on a seasonal basis are being hurt. This moratorium will help businesses and ultimately help families as well.”

Connecticut motorists pay some of the highest gas prices in the country, added Reps. Carson and Giegler. Connecticut’s combined state and federal taxes of more than 55 cents per gallon are third highest in the country, behind only California and New York.