

## House Republican Press Release

July 2, 2008  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. John Piscopo agrees with call for more action on gas taxes**



HARTFORD - State gas taxes will continue to increase if the Legislative majority refuses to cap the price at which the gross receipts tax kicks in, House and Senate Republicans said on July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

In effect, Connecticut places a “tax on a tax” for fuel and other services that reap million from consumers without them fully understanding how the tax system works. The windfall gross receipts tax is estimated to produce an additional \$148 million more than budgeted this fiscal year. When the legislature convened Feb. 6 the wholesale price of gas was \$2.24 per gallon, but at 10 a.m. today, July 1, the price had shot up to \$3.56.

With the onset of the new fiscal year that was supposed to keep gas taxes in check, the taxes levied at the pump continue to climb as the wholesale price increases, a trend that would have stopped had the Republican alternative fuel relief plan been adopted.

“As I speak with people throughout my district, gas prices are their number-one concern,” said state Rep. John Piscopo (R-Thomaston). “There is no reason for the majority not to call us back into legislative session to finish the job by capping the wholesale price at which the state collects its gross receipts tax. As a legislature, we only have so much control over gas prices, but we must do everything we can to help people feeling the pain at the pump.”

Rep. Piscopo represents Burlington, Harwinton, Litchfield and Thomaston in the General Assembly.