



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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Republicans Kill Gas Tax Relief

Democrats' Proposal to Cap County Sales Tax on Gas Prices Defeated

Rochester, New York – June 13, 2006: Republican legislators voted tonight to kill gas tax cap legislation submitted by Legislator Stephanie Aldersley, D-Irondequoit and Democratic colleagues. In response to soaring gas prices, at times exceeding \$3 per gallon, Democrats in the County Legislature have been pushing for a cap on county sales tax collections on gasoline.

During tonight's meeting of the Full Legislature, Republicans, in a party line vote, defeated Brighton Legislator Travis Heider's motion to suspend the rules in order to immediately consider the tax relief proposal. All of the Democratic legislators supported the motion.

"The proposal would provide financial relief to Monroe County residents through a cap on local gasoline sales taxes. Gasoline is one of the most heavily taxed commodities in New York State. Monroe County residents are consistently forced to pay higher prices per gallon than the national average," stated Legislator Heider, "We must approve this tonight in order for the gas cap to be effective July 1st."

On May 21, 2006, Governor Pataki signed into law Chapter 35 of the Laws of 2006, amending State tax law to cap the amount of sales tax imposed on automotive fuels. Under the law, localities that impose a local sales tax are given the option to institute a "cents per gallon" rate method of local sales tax collection. For Monroe County it would mean that instead of charging the current four percent tax rate on the full price of a gallon of gas, the maximum fixed rate would be capped at 8 cents per gallon of fuel.

"I regret that Republican legislators didn't show support for a proposal that could, in part, alleviate the financial hardship these high prices are causing local taxpayers and businesses," said Aldersley.

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