Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Aldersley, Democrats Resubmit Legislation to Cap Gas Tax

Rochester, New York – May 26, 2006: Monroe County Legislator Stephanie Aldersley, joined by Democratic colleagues, resubmitted a legislative proposal today calling on the County to cap the sales tax that it charges on gasoline.

"Monroe County residents are seeing their dollars being drained from their wallets into their gas tanks. The New York State Legislature is providing us with an opportunity to cap the gasoline tax and we should take it. They are doing right by taxpayers. Our residents deserve the same from us," stated Aldersley.

In reaction to high gas prices, the state is giving county governments a way to provide further relief to consumers by capping local portions of the gasoline sales tax as well. Instead of charging the current four percent tax rate, Monroe County now has the option of charging a "cents per gallon" rate. By shifting from a tax rate based on price to a rate based on volume, the County can stabilize the tax and prevent it from fluctuating with increasing gas prices. This measure, taken in conjunction with the state cap, will mean significant savings for consumers.

Today, Aldersley and fellow Democrats reintroduced a proposal that calls for the County to opt-in to the state program and alleviate the hardship that these prices are causing to consumers.

The proposal is well-timed, given that the summer travel season kicks off this Memorial day weekend.

If the County passes the necessary local legislation by June 16, 2006, the new rate can go into effect as early as July 1, 2006.

A copy of the proposal is attached.

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