



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

Monroe County Office Building
39 West Main Street, 4th Floor, Rm. 408
Rochester, NY 14614
P 585.753.1940 F 753.1946

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harry Bronson, Assistant Democratic Leader, 244-3038

Democrats call on County to Cap Gasoline Sales Tax

Rochester, New York – May 19, 2006: In response to soaring gas prices, Democrats in the County Legislature will submit a proposal today calling on the County to cap the sales tax that it charges on gasoline.

The New York State Legislature recently passed a bill capping the state sales tax on gasoline at eight cents per gallon. This legislation gives local governments a way to provide further relief to consumers by capping their portion of the gasoline sales tax as well. Instead of charging the current four percent tax rate, the County now has the option of charging a “cents per gallon” rate that will be determined by the State. 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.

Recognizing that high gas prices are likely to continue, the Democrats propose that the County opt-in to this state program and alleviate the hardship that these prices are causing to consumers.

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.

###