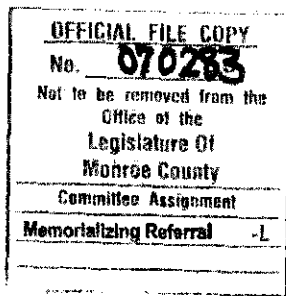


Monroe County Legislature

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LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 14

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August 13, 2007



To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Memorializing the State Legislature to Pass, and Governor Eliot Spitzer to Sign into Law Bill A.9073/S.6151, Allowing the Unrestricted Purchase and Selling of Unbranded Motor Fuel

Honorable Legislators:

As we are all aware, gas prices all across the country have been rising precipitously, and the impact here in the Rochester region has been even more pronounced. According to the latest estimates, Monroe County residents pay an average \$3.04 for a gallon of gas, which is 17 cents higher than the national average \$2.87 per gallon.

Now this might not seem like a significant gap, but consider the facts. The American Automobile Association estimates that the average American drives 15,000 miles per year. With the average American automobile getting an average 20 miles to the gallon, the average American will purchase 750 gallons of fuel per year. At the average \$3.10 that Monroe County residents pay, that is over \$2,300 per year, while families with two cars can pay over \$4,600 a year, or almost \$480 a month. Often times this is more than food or even car payments, and can no longer be accepted.

The oil industry has done little to help the overwhelming burden on American families. Since January of 2002, the top ten oil companies have made profits of over \$125 billion dollars. At times when these businesses are making these record profits, many families have had to lower their own standards of living, choose between paying for their own health insurance or filling up their car that week.

Between July and October in 2005, a space of only four months, when gas prices again rose above three dollars per gallon as they presently are, the oil industry generated \$26 billion in

profits. With new calls for the Senate Commerce Committee to again initiate a probe into alleged price-gouging and anti-trusts violations of the oil industry, it is apparent that governments must begin to examine solutions that can bring urgent relief to consumers as soon as possible.

Before the State Legislature are bills A.9073 and S.6151, sponsored by local Assemblyman Joe Morelle and Senator George Winner. This legislation will allow non-franchise owned gasoline distributors to purchase and sell unbranded fuel, which is far cheaper than franchise distributed gas. By helping to foster free market business practices and putting a halt to oil companies' monopolies, gas prices in New York State could fall by as much as ten cents per gallon according to Ralph Bombardiere, executive director of the state Association of Service Stations and Repair Shops.

This bill is a practical, well-balanced approach towards encouraging free market business practices and providing financial relief to every New York family. We strongly encourage you to join us in memorializing the State Legislature to pass, and Governor Eliot Spitzer to sign into law Bills A.9073/S.6151, legislation that supports lower gasoline prices.

Respectfully Submitted,

Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14

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Legislator - District 17

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