

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#22

Tuesday,
March 15, 2022

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Hwy
San Diego, CA 92101

March 12, 2022

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The La Mesa Chamber of Commerce is writing in support of the proposal to temporarily suspend the state gas tax. This issue is scheduled to be considered by the Board during your March 15th meeting. With soaring gas prices, increasing utility costs, skyrocketing housing costs, and the rising cost of consumer goods due to inflation, many San Diegans are struggling, now more than ever, to afford basic needs. This includes many of our seniors, living on fixed incomes, who struggle to pay their monthly bills.

The war in Europe is driving up gas prices throughout the country and California residents are experiencing the most exorbitant rates in the nation. During the past few weeks, San Diego County recorded its highest average gas prices in history – topping the \$5 per gallon mark - and has continued to see additional increases almost daily. To alleviate the financial burden resulting from the climbing gas prices in California, a temporary suspension of the \$0.51 per gallon state gas tax is necessary.

During these trying times when businesses struggle to keep their doors open throughout the pandemic and try to provide for their families, the current gas prices are taking a toll on their businesses and their lives. The businesses feel the crunch as the consumer may not wish to drive to shop or dine in person as often as they have in the past, due to the increased gasoline prices. Grocery store trips will be limited, as shoppers will conserve gasoline and no longer make sporadic shopping trips. Businesses that offer delivery service such as: floral shops, gift shops, retail stores, stores selling large appliances and others, will increase delivery prices to offset the increase of their fuel costs stagnating sales. The business community is coping with the pandemic and making changes in their marketing activities to entice the consumer to visit them and shop. Now the increased price of gasoline will factor into their success or failure. The business community is trying to heal from COVID-19 and survive and the exorbitant price of gasoline does nothing to support those efforts to heal. Instead, it puts another roadblock to their success and possibly forces them to close their doors, meaning another failed business in San Diego County, as well as more jobs lost.

The State is projected to have a surplus of over \$50 billion this year. By returning a portion of these funds to taxpayers, in the form of a temporary gas tax suspension, the State can help reduce the financial strain posed by record high gas prices while continuing to maintain our roadways.



Again, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed suspension of the state gas tax, for a one-year period and urges the Board of Supervisors to advocate for this relief at the state level. We strongly urge you to vote yes on the state gas tax suspension when it comes before the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary England'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly distinguishable.

Mary England

President & CEO, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce
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