



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV
President
The Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Speaker Jones, and President Ferguson:

As you know, President Biden today called on the Congress and state legislatures to enact a gas tax holiday at both the federal and state level to provide immediate and much-needed relief to Americans suffering from unprecedented gas prices at the pump.

As Maryland's chief fiscal officer and motor fuel regulator, I call upon the leadership of the Congress and once again call on the leadership of the Maryland General Assembly to act expeditiously and enact a gas tax holiday until the end of September. If both Congress and the General Assembly heed the President's, as well as your constituents' call to action, residents and businesses here in Maryland will save nearly \$550 million over the next three months. These are significant savings for Marylanders, families, and small businesses who are seeing their household budgets and business margins decimated through no fault of their own.

Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Hogan moved expeditiously to enact a one-month gas tax holiday that proved to be incredibly beneficial for consumers and businesses. As the state's motor fuel regulator, I worked with gas distributors and retailers to ensure compliance with the tax holiday and that consumers would benefit from the tax savings. Our successful implementation of the gas tax holiday was recently recognized with a national award from the Federation of Tax Administrators. My agency stands ready to implement another tax holiday once again upon enactment of the General Assembly.

To be sure, gas tax holidays are not a long-term solution to the soaring gas prices we are experiencing. But, if done correctly like we did here in Maryland two months ago, short-term gas tax holidays can provide meaningful and much-needed relief to consumers and small businesses who are feeling the financial whiplash from this economic crisis triggered by historic inflation, global supply chain issues, labor shortages, and Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. The urgency of this moment requires immediate, bold, and decisive action from government at all levels. Marylanders and Americans across our country cannot afford continued inaction at a time when government coffers are experiencing historic surpluses.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER FRANCHOT
Comptroller, State of Maryland