



*May 20, 2008
Press Release
For Immediate Release*

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McAloon Urges Immediate Gas Tax Relief: Rep. Gordon will vote on House Bill 6318 Tuesday

Grundy, Kankakee, Will, LaSalle, Iroquois, and Livingston Counties, IL. – As the summer driving season approaches there is no relief in sight for Illinois families and businesses that rely on cars and trucks every day. In response, 75th District State Representative candidate David McAloon (R-Bourbonnais) is urging State Rep. Careen Gordon (D-Coal City) to vote in favor of HB 6318, a House Republican initiative that would suspend the state portion of the IL sales tax on gasoline, effective immediately, through September 15th. The bill is expected to be called for a vote Tuesday, May 20th.

"Everywhere I go in the district, people are talking about the sky high gas prices. It's affecting decisions that working families are making about shopping, travel, family outings, and more. This has a negative effect on all segments of our economy," McAloon said.

According the AAA fuel gauge, gas per gallon is averaging \$4.05 in the Chicago area, and \$3.95 throughout the 75th district. Just one month ago, the average cost per gallon in Chicago was \$3.65.

According to McAloon, this initiative will, "...save consumers approximately 17 cents per gallon." McAloon concluded by saying, "Any relief we can get for people is helpful."

A similar measure was enacted in 2000 by the General Assembly and produced results for Illinois consumers by immediately reducing the cost of gas, according to the AAA (see below).

House Republican Leader Tom Cross has said the Republicans will move to call the sales tax suspension initiative on Tuesday. House Republicans attempted to call the initiative for a vote on April 9th, but Democrats used a parliamentary procedure to block the vote. Representative Gordon voted with the Democrat majority on that date to block a vote to suspend the sales tax on gasoline.

"Since Representative Gordon last voted against gas tax relief, the price of gas has risen an average of 50 cents per gallon. I'm asking that she stand with her constituents over the interests of her political party," McAloon stated.

In 2000, Suspension Of The Sales Tax On Gasoline Worked... And It Will Again

For more information on this and McAloon's position on other issues, contact info@friendsformcaloon.org or visit our website at www.friendsformcaloon.org.

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In 2000, Gas Prices Suddenly Dropped Between 8 And 10 Cents A Gallon Overnight When The Tax Suspension Went Into Effect. "When the tax suspension went into effect July 1, the change in price was obvious, as prices suddenly dropped between 8 and 10 cents a gallon overnight." (Karen Mellen and Ray Long, "As Gasoline Prices Drop, Tax Debate Continues," *Chicago Tribune*, 7/20/00)

AAA Attributed Part Of The Decline In Gas Prices To Illinois' Temporary Suspension Of Its Gas Tax. "The price of gasoline in Illinois dropped 40 cents since its peak this summer, according to the latest survey Wednesday, a record decrease for one month. ... The AAA credited both states [Illinois and Indiana] for temporarily suspending their five percent sales tax on gasoline, and on an increased supply of cleaner-burning reformulated gas." (Robert McCoppin, "State Gas Prices Set Record One-Month Decline," *Arlington Heights Daily Herald*, 7/19/00)

AAA Chicago Motor Club's Steve Nolan: "The Temporary Repeal Of The State Gas Tax Has Helped [With Gas Price Drop]..." (Robert Manor, "Illinois Finds Dramatic Relief At Gas Pump," *Chicago Tribune*, 8/17/00)

The Decline In Gas Prices Was "Aided By The Suspension July 1 [2000] Of The State's 5 Percent Sales Tax on Gasoline." "State legislators had called for the hearings as pump prices soared well above \$2 a gallon. The recent decline-aided by the suspension July 1 of the state's 5 percent sales tax on gasoline-took some of the political expediency out of the hearings." (Courtney Challos, "Legislators Now Irked Over Falling Gas Prices," *Chicago Tribune*, 7/13/00)

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