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Honorable Bob Ferguson
Governor of Washington
Legislative Building
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Transmitted Via Email

July 7, 2026

Dear Governor Ferguson,

We have seen your recent comments indicating a belief that relief from current high gas prices here in Washington can happen only through intervention from Washington D.C.

Fortunately, a more certain path to relief is available. It simply requires intervention from Olympia, through a special legislative session you have the authority to order. We believe many Washingtonians are desperate for such action.

The U.S./Iran conflict had national gas prices surge to around \$4.50/gallon, on average. The average price has now fallen below \$4/gal. On July 1, it stood at \$3.85/gal.

According to aaa.com, the Washington state average for regular gasoline on July 1 was \$5.125/gal. That is \$1.27/gal higher than the national average. The driver of a mid-size to full-size SUV with an 18-gallon tank is forced to pay an average of \$22.86 more in Washington at every fill-up.

Governor, we believe the Democratic cap-and-trade carbon tax is adding around \$0.55 to the cost of every gallon of gas. The so-called low-carbon fuel standard program is now adding another \$0.05, for a total carbon-tax impact of \$0.60/gal on Washingtonians' gas costs. It is larger still for the diesel used by our agricultural sector and freight haulers, resulting in higher prices for food, other consumer goods and services.

This calculation is supported by the state of California's claim that its cap-and-trade program adds \$0.23/gal to its gas price, and its fuel standard adds \$0.18/gal, for a total of \$0.41/gal. Combine that with how Washington's program has regularly had substantially higher allowance

prices than California's and it makes sense that the negative impact of cap and trade on Washington gas is higher.

The lowest priced gas in the country is in Indiana, at \$3.155/gal. That is \$1.97/gal less than in Washington.

This is because Indiana's Governor Braun used his executive powers to first pause the state sales tax on gas, then the state excise tax on gas, to give his constituents relief at the pump and in their wallets.

To be clear, our request for a special session does not involve Washington's state gas tax. We can see those dollars at work. What needs to pause are the two state laws that function like hidden fuel taxes while doing nothing to improve the safety of our roads and bridges.

As you know, we have been critical of those carbon-tax programs because we think they are costly and ineffective. The cap-and-trade program is much more expensive than California's. The Department of Ecology's own data shows that they are not achieving measurable progress toward reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

It is unfortunate that Democrats appear to be putting their political ideology ahead of making it more affordable to live here.

Leaders in other states have made different choices. Democrats in New York and California just pulled back on their cap-and-trade regulations, citing high consumer energy costs.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) acknowledged changes were needed for "easing near-term financial pressures and helping avoid additional costs for consumers."

Governor Newsom of California admitted to the need for relief from rules that could drive up energy costs.

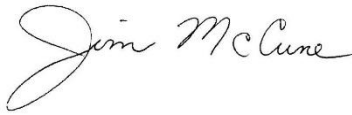
In New York, Governor Hochul said she was backing the changes "solely out of necessity—to protect New Yorkers' pocketbooks and economy."

We see this as a time of urgency for many poor and working Washingtonians. They are scrimping on other things to pay for gas. They need relief now. You can facilitate that relief.

Governor, use your constitutional power to order a special legislative session as soon as possible. Give legislators an opportunity to pause our state's cap and trade law and low-carbon

fuel mandate so that Washingtonians can afford to put food on the table and get to and from their jobs.

Sincerely,



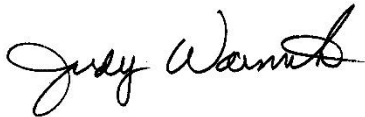
Senator Jim McCune
2nd Leg. District



Senator Jeff Wilson
19th Leg. District



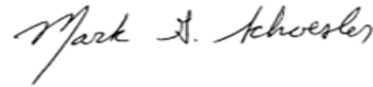
Senator Leonard G Christian
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12th Leg. District



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