



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bid to Suspend Maine Gas Tax Fails in the House

Rep. Laurel Libby (R-Auburn) offers amendment to lower gasoline prices by .30 cents

STATE HOUSE – The Maine House of Representatives refused a proposal to lower Maine gasoline prices by 30 cents per gallon for the remainder of 2022. Rep. Laurel Libby (R-Auburn) offered an amendment to the supplemental budget that would have lowered gasoline prices by suspending Maine's gas tax for the remainder of 2022. It directed part of the \$1.2 billion in excess revenue to cover any losses to Maine's transportation system, municipalities, public safety and other gas tax revenue recipients. Libby's amendment was indefinitely postponed, which effectively killed the proposal.

"Political shenanigans prevented a vote on whether or not the legislature could even consider lowering gas prices, so I offered to amend the budget," said Rep. Laurel Libby (R-Auburn). "Today's amendment would not have been necessary if the Democrat leadership had allowed a vote to consider 'An Act to Suspend Maine's Gas Tax.' With gas prices up 55% since December of 2020, it is unconscionable that the legislature was never allowed to even consider steps to lower prices by temporarily suspending state gas taxes and using part of the \$1.2 billion over-collection from taxpayers. Instead of allowing the legislature to address this through a public hearing, they used a little known parliamentary trick to avoid voting and public scrutiny."

Democrat leaders prevented Legislative consideration of her after-deadline bill, which required an affirmative vote of the Legislative Council. The Council canceled a meeting and the Presiding Officers collectively refused to circulate a ballot on the question. Speaker Fecteau, who is term-limited, voted no and President Jackson voted yes by email, preventing a vote by the full Legislative Council as unanimity was required to proceed.