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May 12, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Gov. Wolf:

I write today to urge you to use the executive power of the Office of the Governor to temporarily suspend state taxes on gasoline in light of last week's cyber attack on the Colonial Pipeline. Gasoline prices are skyrocketing along the East Coast as gas stations face fuel shortages following a shutdown in this critical supply line.

Gasoline demand has jumped 20 percent nationwide with the average price per gallon hitting the highest level in nearly six years, according to AAA. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp is suspending his state's taxes on motor fuels through at least Saturday to offset increasing prices there. Meanwhile, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam declared a fuel emergency in his state, triggering greater flexibility and funding to ensure there are adequate fuel supplies.

Here in Pennsylvania, we have seen the average cost of gasoline jump 8-cents-per-gallon since last week and \$1.03 per gallon since last spring. A suspension of the state's 58-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax would help to offset rising prices as drivers brace for what could be weeks of fuel disruption and price hikes.

I know you agree with many of Pennsylvanians that the gasoline tax is burdensome and unreliable. Given your support of phasing the tax out entirely, I see no better time to test this notion than now. Businesses and restaurants are poised to reopen fully and pandemic-weary citizens are preparing to travel this summer. For these reasons I strongly urge you to suspend the state gasoline tax to help consumers weather the Colonial Pipeline disruption and put Pennsylvania on the path to fully eliminating our gasoline tax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns, State Representative

Cc: Will Danowski, Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs