

Calling For Federal & State Governments To Enact A “Gas Tax Holiday” From Memorial Day To Labor Day Each Year And Invest In Developing Alternative Energy Sources To Reduce Future Dependence On Oil

Legislators Roberti and Petit offer the following:

WHEREAS, rising gasoline prices (currently over \$4.00 per gallon) are having a devastating impact on our local economy (especially the tourism industry) and the ability of Ulster County families to make ends meet, and

WHEREAS, according to the Public Policy Institute, New York has the third highest gasoline taxes in the country, and

WHEREAS, combined federal, state and local taxes add approximately 65 cents per gallon to the cost of gasoline for Ulster County residents, and

WHEREAS, while New York recently capped the State sales tax on gasoline at \$2.00 (\$.08)/gallon, the State levies additional taxes that add 25 cents per gallon to the cost of gasoline, and

WHEREAS, in a recently enacted New York State Budget for 2008-09, spending increased by nearly 5%, or \$5 billion, from the previous year’s budget, and

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 State Budget also included over \$900 million in new fees and taxes and allocated approximately \$700 million for Legislative Member Items, and

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 State Budget also includes a new internet sales tax (a/k/a “Amazon Tax”) that will require businesses to collect sales tax on all internet purchases made by New York State residents, which is expected to increase state and local sales tax revenue by \$50 million this year and \$75 million next year, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature believes urgent action is needed to address skyrocketing gasoline prices and provide immediate relief to County residents also struggling to cope with rising school property taxes, home energy costs and the recent dramatic increase in food prices, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature also believes urgent action is needed because high gasoline prices will have a negative impact on the local tourism businesses during the summer driving months, and

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WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature believes it is vitally important for all levels of government to work together to develop a long-range plan to reduce our future dependence on oil.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby calls on the United States Congress to adopt immediate legislation to suspend the collection of the 18.4 cent federal gas tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature also calls on the New York State Legislature to enact immediate legislation to suspend the Motor Fuel Tax, license fee, testing fee, the Petroleum Business Tax and the State Sales Tax on gasoline, which adds approximately 33 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline, from Memorial Day to Labor Day annually and provide counties with the local option to suspend its sales tax on gasoline for the same period each year, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature also requests that the federal government continues to look at other measures to reduce gasoline prices, including but not limited to: eliminating \$18 billion in federal subsidies given to oil companies, halting purchases for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, increasing Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards, end the practice of zone pricing by oil companies and acting aggressively to crackdown on gas gouging and oil speculation, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls on the New York State Legislature to find the estimated \$500 million needed to suspend gasoline taxes from Memorial Day to Labor Day by **CUTTING STATE SPENDING**, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the federal and state governments to work with local governments across the United States to develop alternate energy sources, promote public transportation and manufacture hybrid vehicles, in order to reduce our future reliance on oil, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller’s Office, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari,

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Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, the National Association of Counties and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
UNKNOWN

0629

RULED OUT OF ORDER

Legislator Noonan motioned, seconded by Legislator Cummings to overrule Chairman’s ruling.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 12

NOES: 17

(AYES: Legislators Cummings, Fabiano, Gerentine, Hansut, Harris, Maloney, Noonan, R.A. Parete, Petit, Roberts, Ronk and Terrizzi)

(Absent: Legislators Kraft, Roberti and Sheeley)