



## State of Connecticut

**SENATOR KEVIN C. KELLY**  
**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

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August 10, 2021

Governor Ned Lamont  
Office of the Governor  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

You recently said that you hope lawmakers approve a new TCI gas tax in a special legislative session.

The TCI program is a tax, as you have stated, and it will be a significant burden on working and middle class families, with little improvement in greenhouse gas pollution. Americans are concerned about the impact of inflation on their kitchen table economics, and a vast majority are already being hurt by rising prices on gas and food. A new gas tax only worsens that situation. It is a tax that even the Senate Democrat leader now admits will hurt poorer people with older vehicles who would pay a disproportionate amount of the cost.

In addition to these concerns, experts have warned that the TCI gas tax will spur massive fuel shortages and lead to long gas lines. A recent Boston Herald [article](#) (attached) looked at this issue as it would impact Massachusetts. Estimates show that in order to achieve the goals of the program Massachusetts would have to reduce fuel usage by 52 million gallons by 2025. According to the report, "That translates to 80,000 fewer gas-powered cars on the road — vehicles that will either have to go electric or go without gas."

This leads to major concerns about gas shortages. We all witnessed shortages of necessities like toilet paper, cleaning supplies and empty shelves during the early days of the pandemic. Imagine what a shortage in gasoline would look like?

To further put these concerns into perspective, the article explains, "In 2020, just 2,000 electric vehicles were sold in Massachusetts, according to Mass Fiscal. To avoid gas shortages by 2025, the state will need to be selling 2,000 each month beginning in July."

These numbers are alarming. Has your office closely considered how the TCI gas tax program will impact gas supply in our state, and the ability of people to access transportation? Have you conducted an analysis of how a gas shortage would impact Connecticut residents and their ability to get to work, school and provide for their families?

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I urge you to reconsider your position advocating for a new gas tax that not only burdens working and middle class families with a \$100 million new tax, but that also puts our state in jeopardy for a fuel shortage that would dramatically impact daily life, jobs, and our entire state's recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin C. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kevin C. Kelly  
Senate Republican Leader

cc: Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff