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MINORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics

Legislative Policy Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone

Budget and Taxation Committee

3 West Miller Senate Office Building

Re: Senate Bill 782 Motor Fuel Tax Rates – Consumer Price Index Adjustment – Suspension by Board of Public Works

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 782 authorizes the Board of Public Works to temporarily suspend an increase in motor fuel tax rates due to adverse economic conditions, a public emergency, or other extraordinary circumstances.

Currently, adjustments to the gas tax, including pauses, can only be made by the General Assembly when they are in session. During the interim, action cannot be taken by the Governor or the Board of Public Works, and the only option is to call a Special Session. This inflexibility does not allow state government to respond to market conditions and provide relief to citizens during periods of high inflation and high gas prices, as we have experienced in the last couple of years.

Senate Bill 782 would allow the Board of Public Works to suspend the automatic increase when the General Assembly is not in session.

I ask for your favorable report of Senate Bill 782.