



WMDA/CAR Service Station  
and Automotive Repair Association

February 9, 2023

Chairperson: Melony Griffith  
Members of Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB178 Gas Price Gouging Act  
Position: In opposition

Retail sellers of motor fuel are required to post their lowest price for regular gasoline. Credit card fees are high, and some dealers offer a less expensive price for gas by providing a cash price or combining it with car wash. Consumers have a choice.

More stations have gone to a single price or a dual price sign with diesel. These are digital signs and can be changed from a laptop or a POS terminal. They are much safer eliminating tall ladders or aluminum poles near power lines but on the downside they are expensive.

No gasoline retailer is out to deceive the public, gasoline sales are not a onetime purchase. Repeat business and regular customers are what motor fuel retailers depend on.

Consider the gallons pumped at retail and the number of customer complaints.

Maryland Gasoline retailers sold \*2,364,526,038. gallons of gasoline in \*FY2022. That is two billion, three hundred and sixty four million, five hundred and thirty six thousand gallons .Using a very liberal sixteen (16) gallon per transaction that equals 147,782,877 individual retail transactions. This is 147 million plus transactions at retail pumps with only twenty complaints(20) about the price not matching the street sign. There were nineteen complaints registered at Weights and Measures and one at the Comptroller's office, that street price did not match pump price (FY2022). One (1) complaint for every 7, 389,143 purchases. One complaint for over seven million transactions. The numbers speak for themselves.

Please give SB178 an unfavorable Report

\*Maryland, Motor Fuel Tax and Motor Carrier Tax (IFTA) Annual Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.ne