

MATT MORGAN
Legislative District 29A
St. Mary's County



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 310
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3170 · 301-858-3170
800-492-7122 Ext. 3170
Matt.Morgan@house.state.md.us

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2023

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
HB422- Motor Fuel Tax Rates-Consumer Price Index Adjustment-Repeal
Favorable

Good afternoon, Chairman Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **HB422- Motor Fuel Tax Rates-Consumer Price Index Adjustment-Repeal**

Like so many of our constituents, I am concerned about the impact of rapidly increased inflation and energy cost on the citizens of Maryland. We are now seeing continued inflation increases, and this will exponentially increase Maryland's fuel tax, essentially an automatic tax increase. With consumers facing a rapid rise in the price for fuel at the pump, I believe it's time we stop the automatic tax increases. July 1st of last year the gas tax increased from 36 cents to nearly 43 cents at the pump.

Gas tax will skyrocket again next July 1st unless we pass this legislation.

We are putting our constituents on the hook for millions of dollars, out of their pockets, off their dinner tables and into government coffers. I argue that we need to start calculating the "household effect" these tax increases have on ordinary citizens.

The time is now for this legislature, and every legislature in America to look for opportunities to lower the cost of living. Bad government policies, coupled with covid measures that shut down a thriving economy have resulted in skyrocketing inflation and out of control expenses. We continue to see the results at the grocery store and at the gas pump.

I have long believed that all tax increases should be voted on, but it is never more imperative than now to pass this bill and give some relieve to citizens struggling to recover.

With Marylanders already facing rapidly increased prices, I believe it's time we stop the inevitable and automatic gas tax increase from happening by repealing the CPI portion of the law.

I would ask that the Committee vote FAVORABLE on this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Morgan
Delegate