

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Vin Pacileo (860) 767-8153

## General Assembly Fails to Develop Energy Strategy

State Senate candidate Vin Pacileo, Republican candidate for the 33<sup>rd</sup> District State Senate, today announced that the legislature's recent special session to provide energy assistance to families and businesses does not go far enough. He said that the problem is that most residents in the 33rd Senatorial District will not qualify for the assistance.

"People are already beginning to see that they are going to be paying significantly higher prices for home heating oil, natural gas and propane than they did last year. Combine that with gas prices that are well above what they were last year and it is crippling not only to low-income families but many middle-income families who reside in the Connecticut River Valley," said Pacileo.

He said that he is most disappointed in the failure of the General Assembly to cap the Gross Receipts Tax on motor fuels. The 7% tax is applied to the wholesale cost of gasoline, thus the higher the price of gasoline the higher the tax. The tax was established when the price of gasoline was \$1.50 a gallon. This tax also applies to those people that heat their homes with fuel oil.

"Every time the price of gasoline and fuel oil goes up the tax goes up. Contrary to what my opponent says, that additional money raised from the tax is NOT going to transportation, mass transit and infrastructure improvements. These additional tax dollars are feeding the General Operating Fund where spending grew by almost 9% last year. This rate of spending is excessive and shows a lack of understanding about the difficulties individuals and families are facing," said Pacileo.

Pacileo continued, "People are struggling and for the legislature to allow the Gross Receipts Tax to continue to rise as gas prices went well over \$4.00 a gallon is disingenuous. That is why we need to cap the price at which the tax is applied so that consumers are not deceived."

"This is a significant issue that is facing our state right now and consumers will again feel the effects of high energy costs as we head into the cold weather months," said Pacileo. "We need a comprehensive energy plan that provides incentives to consumers and businesses alike that will help reduce costs and encourage conservation."