

For Immediate Release  
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## **Vin Pacileo Supports Call to Sign Petition To Cut and Cap the Gas Tax**

Vin Pacileo, Republican candidate for state Senate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, today expressed his support of a legislative petition to cut and cap Connecticut's gas taxes. If a majority of both houses sign the petition, the legislature will be forced into special session to finally address skyrocketing gasoline prices. "Just six more signatures are required to give the Senate a simple majority to move this forward", said Pacileo.

"Connecticut motorists pay the highest gas taxes in the nation", said Pacileo. "The legislature is in a position to help taxpayers, but has blocked efforts to reduce state gas taxes. I urge Senator Daily to sign the petition which will bring some tax relief to the people of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District."

Connecticut drivers are charged two state gas taxes, a flat 25-cents per gallon excise tax, and a Petroleum Gross Receipts Tax which is levied as a percentage of the wholesale price of gasoline. At the current rate of seven percent, this hidden tax costs consumers approximately 26 cents/gallon. That means drivers pay more than 50-cents in state taxes for every gallon of gas they buy in Connecticut. And every time the wholesale price of gas increases, Connecticut gas taxes also go up.

The petition before the legislature would immediately convene in special session to cut and cap the Gross Receipts Tax to bring Connecticut gas prices in line with those of neighboring states. Currently, Connecticut motorists pay approximately 27-cents more in state gas taxes than Massachusetts motorists; 11 cents more than New York motorists; and 20 cents more than Rhode Island motorists.

Pacileo said, "The Gross Receipts Tax impacts both the price of gas as well as home heating oil. This tax is paid not only by individuals, but by town governments. The result is increased costs for our towns operating and education budgets. Taxpayers get hit with this tax when they fill-up at the pump, buy their home heating oil and pay their local property taxes."

Connecticut's Gross Receipts Tax was initially increased to pay for major transportation initiatives, but due to record gas prices, the tax is expected to bring in \$116 million more in FY09 than the state needs. Pacileo said he wants to see those windfalls returned to taxpayers in the form of a tax cut.

"In this difficult economy, the State of Connecticut is reaping more than \$100 million in excess tax revenue from a growing energy crisis. This hidden tax has risen 18-cents in the past three years without the legislature ever taking a vote. And without legislative action, the tax is only going to go up," said Pacileo. "This is a clear difference between the candidates running for Senate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District: I support cutting and capping state gas taxes and Eileen Daily does not."

The 33<sup>rd</sup> District encompasses the towns of Portland, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Deep River, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.