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ACCC Legislative Alert!

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## Vidak Measure Would Stop Hidden Gas Tax California's Low-Income Residents Will Suffer the Most

Sacramento – Senator Andy Vidak (R-Hanford) today introduced Senate Bill 1079, which would stop a hike in gasoline and diesel prices that could range from 16 to 76 cents a gallon every time Californians fill up starting January 1, 2015.

"Gasoline isn't a luxury for most Californians, it is a necessity," said Vidak. "Families throughout our state are struggling to just feed their families and clothe their children. The last thing folks need right now is another devastating hit to their wallet."

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Brown Administration secretly created the unauthorized gas tax without public knowledge or legislative approval. Beginning January 1, 2015, the CARB mandate will require companies that sell transportation fuels into the California market to comply with the cap-and-trade program regulation beginning January 1, 2015.

SB 1079 would exempt transportation fuels—including gasoline, diesel, and natural gas from the state's cap-and-trade program. California already has the highest gas prices in the nation. According to GasBuddy, the average cost for gasoline in California is \$4.12 per gallon and the national average is \$3.68.

"Communities that I represent already suffer from extreme poverty and some of the highest unemployment rates in the state and the country. Our food banks are overwhelmed with people waiting in food lines and our farmers have to fallow fields because of the drought," said Vidak. "This is an unfair hidden tax that will hurt vulnerable Californians the most. It must be stopped."

On May 23, Vidak attended the launch of the "Fed Up at the Pump" campaign at the three B's Truck and Auto Plaza in Lodi. "Fed Up at the Pump" is a grassroots coalition of business owners and their employees, consumers and advocates who are concerned about the negative impact the hidden gas tax will have on California, especially the Central Valley.

A similar bill, AB69, introduced by Assemblyman Perea would look to delay the implementation of the "Hidden Tax" for 3 years or until a more reasonable solution can be developed.

The ACCC strongly supports both pieces of legislation but would favor the complete removal of the "Hidden Tax" over a delay. We strongly urge all ACCC Members as well as all car guys & gals to contact Governor Brown today and let him know that you support SB1079 and AB69 and oppose the implementation of the "Hidden Tax" on California's Drivers. The governor can reached at 916-445-2841 or click on link https://govnews.ca.gov/gov39mail/mail.php.



## SB 1079 co-authors are:

## <u>Senators</u>

Joel Anderson (R-San Diego) Tom Berryhill (R-Twain Hart) Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) Ted Gaines (R-Roseville) Republican Leader Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) Steve Knight (R-Antelope Valley) Mike Morrell (R-Rancho Cucamonga) Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber) Walters (R-Laguna Mimi Niguel) Mark Wyland (R-Escondido)

## Assembly Members

Travis Allen (R-Huntington Beach) Katcho Achadjian (R- San Luis Obispo) Frank Bigelow (R-El Dorado County) Rocky Chavez (R- Oceanside) Republican Leader Connie Conway (R-Tulare) Brian Dahle (R-Bieber) Tim Donnelly (R-Twin Peaks) Shannon Grove (R- Bakersfield) Curt Hagman (R-Chino Hills) Diane Harkey (R-Dana Point) Brian Jones (R-Santee) Eric Linder (R-Corona) Dan Logue (R-Marysville) Brian Maienschein (R-San Diego) Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore) Republican Leader-Elect Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) Jim Patterson (R-Fresno) Donald Wagner (R-Irvine) Marie Waldren (R-Escondido) Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita)

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