North Carolina General Assembly
North Carolina Senate
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

October 7, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the members of the North Carolina Senate, write to you today from a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly, which has been convened for one reason, and one reason alone: fuel prices in our state have become an emergency.

The leaders of both chambers have said so plainly. In announcing this session, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger said North Carolina families and farmers "need real relief and they need it now." House Speaker Destin Hall said rising fuel costs are "squeezing North Carolina families' pocketbooks" and that North Carolinians "can't afford to wait." Each of us shares the view that not enough is being done for the hardworking people of our state.

By acting on the gas tax, the goal is to help North Carolinians facing rising gas and diesel prices. We ask that the federal government do everything in its power as well.

North Carolina's gas tax is 41 cents a gallon. According to AAA, the average price of regular gas in our state has climbed $1.20 a gallon over the past year, and diesel is still averaging above $6 after setting a state record in September. If this legislature suspended every cent of the state tax, North Carolinians would still be paying far more at the pump than they did even a year ago, and any relief we pass from the state is only temporary.

The General Assembly can take a few cents off of one bill, but only you, Mr. President, can address the critical pain points that are driving up the price of gas even further.

Since late February, the war with Iran has effectively shut down shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which has created the largest energy disruption in recorded history. As of this weekend, Iran's lead negotiator says the Strait will stay closed until a deal is reached with the United States.

Here is what it means in North Carolina.

Our farmers are in the middle of harvest, the most fuel-hungry stretch of their year, with diesel at record prices. Matt Bell, who farms in central North Carolina, told CBS News his diesel costs have about doubled since last year, his combine burns roughly $600 worth a day, and some of his neighbors are thinking about quitting after this season. Even in Spring, North Carolina growers were sounding the alarm, and many are being forced to carry these rising costs on top of drought, crop losses, lost export markets, and, in the west, the long recovery from Hurricane Helene.

Of course, it's not just farmers who are feeling the pain from the ongoing crisis. Our families are paying for this war every time they fill up, with gasoline prices in August some 27.4 percent higher than a year earlier. Additionally, overall inflation has stayed above 3 percent every month since the war began, and every extra dollar spent at the pump is a dollar that cannot and does not go to groceries, rent, prescriptions, or child care.

Our truckers and the businesses that rely on gas and diesel are unfortunately paying for it too. National diesel inventories fell to the lowest level ever recorded in September, and as consumers well know, most of what sits on our store shelves had to arrive on a truck. That cost does not stay at the truck stop.

Particularly important to North Carolina, military families are paying the highest price of all. Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg deployed to the Middle East this spring, and the Army has extended that deployment to a full year. Over the course of this war, 18 American service members have been killed and more than 830 wounded. Families in North Carolina, and particularly in Cumberland, Hoke, and Harnett counties, live with that fear for their loved ones every minute this war continues.

And every North Carolinian is paying for it as a taxpayer. U.S. Central Command puts the cost of the war so far at $43.6 billion through early September, and the Pentagon has asked Congress for another $67.1 billion.

Given the toll this war is taking on North Carolina families, we ask that reopening the Strait of Hormuz and ending this war become the first priority of your administration, because it is the only thing that will bring prices down for good.

North Carolinians have done more than their part to pay for a war they did not ask for. They have absorbed this cost at the pump, at the grocery store, on the farm, and at the kitchen table while a loved one is deployed. Each of us who has signed this letter is doing what we can to support our constituents, but what happens next is up to you, Mr. President.

Please end the war. Reopen the Strait of Horumz. Bring our soldiers home. And keep your promise to lower prices for all hardworking Americans.

Respectfully,

The Members of the North Carolina Senate

Submitted by Democratic Senate Leader
Senator Sydney Batch

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senate President Pro Tempore
Senator Phil Berger

Submitted by Senator Gale Adcock

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator W. Ted Alexander

Submitted by Senator Val Applewhite

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Lisa S. Barnes

Submitted by Senator Dan Blue

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Bob Brinson

Submitted by Senator Woodson Bradley

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Danny Earl Britt, Jr.

Submitted by Senator Jay J. Chaudhuri

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Jim Burgin

Submitted by Senator Sophia Chitlik

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Kevin Corbin

Submitted by Senator Haseeb Fatmi

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator David W. Craven, Jr.

Submitted by Senator Michael Garrett

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Warren Daniel

Submitted by Senator Jonah Garson

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Carl Ford

Submitted by Senator Lisa Grafstein

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Amy S. Galey

Submitted by Senator Paul A. Lowe, Jr.

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Ralph Hise

Submitted by Senator Julie Mayfield

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Mark Hollo

Submitted by Senator Mujtaba A. Mohammed

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Brent Jackson

Submitted by Senator Natalie S. Murdock

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Steve Jarvis

Submitted by Senator Gladys A. Robinson

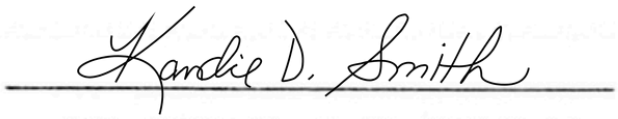
Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Todd Johnson

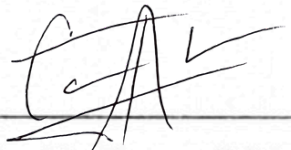
Submitted by Senator DeAndrea Salvador

Refused to sign

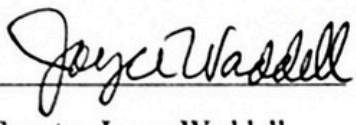
Submitted by Senator Dana Jones



Submitted by Senator Kandie D. Smith



Submitted by Senator Caleb Theodros



Submitted by Senator Joyce Waddell

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Michael A. Lazzara

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Michael V. Lee

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Tom McInnis

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Chris Measmer

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Timothy D. Moffitt

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Buck Newton

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Brad Overcash

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Bill Rabon

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Norman W. Sanderson

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Benton G. Sawrey

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Vickie Sawyer

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Eddie D. Settle

Refused to sign

Submitted by Senator Johnny Tillett