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ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Attorney General Letitia James  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General James,

I write to you with concern about the price of gasoline here in New York.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as people continue to stay home to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, the price of gasoline has slowly started to drop across the nation. With travel restrictions, prices continue to drop even now. However, here in New York State the numbers do not seem in line with what's happening nationally. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), New York is one of only 12 states where the average cost for a gallon of gasoline has remained more than \$2.00.

Data collected by AAA shows that the average cost of a gallon of gasoline in New York at this time last year, was \$2.958 (shown in blue) and at the same time the national average was \$2.886 (shown in red). This means that the national average was 97.6% of the state average, which shows that the price within the state was very close to what was the price throughout the country. Currently, the state average is \$2.178, and the national average is \$1.774. The percentage is now 81.45%, which means there is a much larger disparity between the drop in gasoline prices in the country and here in New York State.



**Data from AAA showing average cost of gasoline per gallon in New York (shown in blue) and rest of the country (shown in red)**

Many of my constituents are asking why they are not seeing more of a price drop here in local gasoline prices and I write on their behalf. In comparison, some noted that gas prices seem to rise much quicker when market prices rise. With that in mind, by the time New Yorkers head back to work prices may even start rising again.

I respectfully request that your office explore this matter further. We must ensure that consumers are not being taken advantage of during these difficult times.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara  
Representing areas of Albany, Montgomery, and Schenectady Counties