

JOHN RAY CLEMMONS
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State of Tennessee
House of Representatives

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March 8, 2022

Governor Bill Lee
TN State Capitol, First Floor
600 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Gov. Lee:

We write to respectfully request that you take immediate action to place a moratorium on the state's collection of gas and diesel taxes for a period of 90 days. This can be accomplished via the budget implementation bill, over which you enjoy a great deal of control, stand-alone legislation under Title 67, or perhaps via Executive Order. To the extent which we can be of assistance in the legislative process, we stand ready to assist in this effort. Regardless which avenue you choose, leadership on this topic is imperative, and we call on you to join us and take immediate action for the benefit of Tennessee's working families.

The war in Ukraine is having a direct impact on our country and state, and this will likely continue for some time. As you surely agree, our nation's full support of our international neighbors in Ukraine is a just cause. We must do all that we can, as Americans, to stand against unjustified military aggression by Russia. This just cause may require sacrifice and engagement on our part as Tennesseans, as well as from corporate America, our faith community, civic groups and importantly, our state government.

While gas prices have not yet set records, when adjusted for inflation, we can fairly expect them to remain high and possibly increase, posing a real challenge for working families in every community across our state. We are uniquely positioned, as state leaders, to provide a bit of relief in the form of eliminating all or a portion of our gas and diesel taxes for the requested period of time. We understand this will have a direct impact on the transportation fund in our state, but we are a fiscally sound state with ample resources to fill in any budgetary gaps that may be created. While this may appear to be a financial sacrifice by our state today, it should prove to be a great investment in democracy abroad.

Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtful consideration of this request and prompt action for the benefit of Tennessee's working families.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of John Ray Clemmons.
John Ray Clemmons
State Representative

A handwritten signature of Bo Mitchell.
Bo Mitchell
State Representative