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# Assembly California Legislature



**BRIAN W. JONES**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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JOB CREATION FOR THE NEW  
ECONOMY

October 5, 2012

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

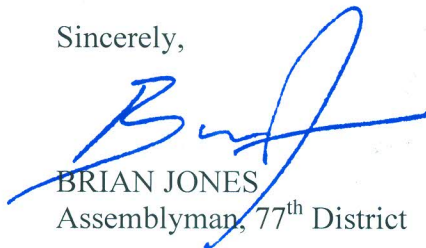
Dear Governor Brown:

As I am sure you are aware, California consumers are reeling from the devastating impact of the biggest single-week jump in gasoline prices in the last five years. I am certain you are receiving the same phone calls from the public that I am: extraordinary pricing and actual shortages in southern California have drivers in a high state of anxiety. This situation appears to be due to a number of factors, including the recent fire at the Chevron Richmond refinery, a power outage that stopped production at Exxon Mobil Corp.'s Torrance refinery, and maintenance at Tesoro's refinery. These shutdowns have caused a tremendous spike in the wholesale price of gasoline and many areas are seeing gas at and above \$5.00 per gallon.

Given the uncertainty as to whether this is a temporary crisis or its effects will be felt over the longer term, I respectfully request that your administration take action to help reduce the disproportionate impact to consumers and independent oil marketers. I respectfully request that your administration seek or issue any waivers or variances necessary to permit the production and sale of off-spec gasoline to protect against further fuel supply disruptions and to help increase the amount of fuel available. While these problems may resolve themselves in the short term if the refineries resume production in the next few days, further steps may be necessary to help alleviate the pressure caused by recent price spikes. Perhaps a temporary suspension of state gas taxes and fees would also provide consumers with some relief from high gasoline prices.

Although I certainly think it is necessary to determine exactly what specifically caused this situation, in the interim I ask that you utilize whatever executive authority you possess to provide some relief from high gasoline prices to consumers.

Sincerely,



BRIAN JONES  
Assemblyman, 77<sup>th</sup> District

BWJ:jb