



# Jil's Statehouse Report

News from Springfield from State Rep. Jil Tracy  
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## House Republicans Demand Vote on Gas Tax Relief

Today, we are facing a real crisis. Gas prices have soared to \$4 a gallon, and it looks as though there is no end in sight. Summer driving months are here and families are weighing whether to hit the road for their annual vacation or being able to afford the drive to work.

This is a problem that stretches from coast to coast, state to state, but we do have options to provide relief to consumers. How can we, here in Illinois, combat this global surge in oil prices? The House Republicans have introduced a common sense approach that will immediately put money back into the pockets of hard working men and women by reducing gasoline prices and saving average drivers as much as \$30 a month.

House Bill 6318 would suspend the state's portion of the sales tax on motor fuel through mid September. Illinois is one of only 10 states that even impose a sales tax on fuel, and the higher prices at the pump, the more money the state rakes in. Last year alone, the state brought in nearly \$600 million from the motor fuel sales tax, and this year those revenues are likely to exceed \$720 million. These windfall taxes would be much better spent by families struggling to pay increasing grocery bills and rising property taxes.

I and my colleagues have repeatedly called for an up and down vote on the proposal, but the Democrat leadership continues to play obstructionist. All we are asking is to allow the entire House, all 118 members, to debate the bill and allow a simple yes or no vote. On Tuesday, our call for relief at the pump was denied again, when the Democrats kept HB 6318 stalled in the rules committee. The leadership on the other side of the isle is playing politics with people's lives and hijacking the democratic process. If they do not favor giving the residents of this state relief and want to continue ignoring the problem, then vote NO, but at least let those of us who believe this legislation will truly benefit the people of Illinois have a proper debate.

Relief is relief, no matter the amount. I am sure we all want even greater savings, but how can you argue with an extra few bucks in your pocket every week-apparently the House Democrats would rather have your money in their pocket.