



# California Senate Republican Caucus

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January 28, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write today to express grave concerns with the state of California's oil and gas market and to formally request that you immediately convene a special legislative session on the ongoing gasoline cost crisis and the impending gasoline supply emergency.

As a result of a decades-long political and policy crusade against the oil and gas industry in our state, we now face an unprecedented cost and supply crisis with inevitable and catastrophic effects that have already begun to surface and will continue to mount, absent swift and decisive action through the calling of a special session.

Hardworking men and women who operate California's oil and gas industry have lost and will continue to lose their livelihoods. The ripple effects of this emergency will depress all economic sectors, lead to essential service cuts as state revenues decline, and shred our already fragile economy. The ensuing California recession will rival those that defined previous generations. All of this as a preventable result of your administration's failure to protect consumers and advance sound economic and environmental policy.

From arbitrary and unrealistic mandates imposed on producers, refiners, importers and consumers to burdensome and cost-prohibitive tax, fee and regulatory schemes, you, your colleagues and predecessors have driven California's oil and gas industry – a pillar of the world's fourth largest economy – to the brink of collapse. Businesses and consumers are suffering as gas prices soar, and the cost of all other goods and services tracks skyward along with them. The situation has become untenable and requires immediate legislative redress via special session.

Specifically, we request the convening of a special legislative session to address, at minimum, the following:

1. Repeal Executive Order N-79-20: Arbitrary deadlines that artificially manipulate markets are destructive and have already-proven negative impacts, including discouraging industry investment and inspiring abandonment of the California market by two major refiners that together accounted for 20% of our in-state refining capacity.

2. Repeal Senate Bill X1-2 (2023) and Assembly Bill X2-1 (2024): Gasoline price gouging has never been proven, even circumstantially, and members of your own administration, along with elected legislators of your own party, have admitted SB X2-1 was pure political posturing to address what was a phantom problem existing only in narrative political fantasy, not in practical reality. Your own appointees to the California Energy Commission voted to delay enforcement of SB X2-1 because it would cause gasoline prices to increase. Assembly Bill X1-2 has also fallen flat in its purported intent and has instead significantly contributed to the decision by major refiners of crude oil to cease their California operations. Government meddling in free markets is always a dangerous proposition, particularly so when done under false pretenses, as was the case here.
3. Repeal California's requirement for a "special" blend of gasoline different from other states: Putting California consumers on a gasoline island increases costs of production and limits refinery options. It is arbitrary and impractical rules and regulations like this that have driven California's gasoline prices to be the most expensive in the contiguous United States. This special session must be utilized to remove this and the myriad other such barriers to affordability.

These are just a few areas of immediate need to pull us away from the economic brink we face if California's oil and gas market evaporates. We are eager and prepared to begin immediately the work of rescuing the people of California from impending gasoline price spikes up to \$8 per gallon, according to experts, supply shortages that may require forced fuel rationing not seen since the 1970's, and the resulting economic collapse that will make the recession of 2008-09 look like a minor downturn.

We are asking for your help and cooperation today for the good of all Californians. We remain at the ready to work hand in hand with you and your staff to resolve this crisis before it worsens through a special session upon your call.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Jones  
Senate Minority Leader  
Senate District 40



Marie Alvarado-Gil  
Senate District 4



Steven S. Choi, PhD  
Senate District 37



Megan Dahle  
Senate District 1



Shannon Grove  
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