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Washington State Senate

Senator Chris Gildon
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May 20, 2026

Honorable Bob Ferguson
Governor of Washington
Legislative Building
416 Sid Snyder Ave. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504

Transmitted Via Email

RE: Request for Temporary Pause on the CCA Program to Provide Financial Relief to Washington Residents

Governor,

In your January 2025 inaugural address, you correctly noted our state has become unaffordable for many Washingtonians. It is worse now.

The latest consumer price index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region rose 4.9% for the 12 months ending in April, compared to 3.8% nationally. The region's energy index went up 23.7% during the same period, nearly four points above the national rate.

Gasoline prices are clearly the primary cause, rising 25.7% higher over the past year in the central Puget Sound region. This is especially significant because, due largely to our state's Climate Commitment Act, the cost of gas already has been higher in Washington than all but one or two states for the past few years.

Increased fuel costs make virtually every sector of our economy more expensive: freight transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and consumer goods. This affects household budgets statewide and places a disproportionate burden on working families, commuters, seniors, and small businesses.

The higher prices for fuel in our state also are being felt in the public sector. A report in The Spokesman-Review details how bus drivers for one Spokane County school district have made the short drive to Idaho to save around \$1 per gallon on diesel.

For this reason, I respectfully request that you take immediate action to temporarily suspend the Climate Commitment Act until economic conditions stabilize and fuel prices return to more sustainable levels.

It is my understanding that an emergency declaration could immediately result in a reduction of approximately 55 cents per gallon from wholesale gasoline purchases. Based on a non-partisan study of tax moratoriums in other states, prices should begin to drop within a week.

The goals of environmental stewardship and responsible resource management are important. This request is not intended to abandon those. But public policy must also account for affordability and economic realities. Many families, particularly those in rural and suburban communities, do not have practical alternatives to driving and are being forced to absorb escalating transportation costs simply to get to work, school, medical appointments, and daily obligations.

Temporary relief from costs driven by the CCA would show that government recognizes the economic impact of the need for balance and flexibility during a period of sustained financial strain on Washington households and employers.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and stand ready to work collaboratively on solutions that both protect our environment and preserve affordability for the people of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Gildon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Chris Gildon
25th Legislative District