



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the
County Comptroller

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor
421 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, New York 13202-2998
(315) 435-2130 • Fax (315) 435-2250
www.ongov.net

James V. Maturo
Deputy Comptroller

Thomas G. Squires
Deputy Comptroller

April 1, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislature:

Before you today is a resolution extending the cap placed on the taxation of motor fuels. Unfortunately there is another choice before you as to which pocket to pick. Do we tax homeowners or gasoline users? I say neither.

We need to start discussing real reform, real cost cutting and real reduction in spending. Equaling unfortunate is that we are forced to react to the budget rumors from Albany. It is not pretty.

My concern is if this cap lapses where will the money go? Will we really cut property taxes or increase spending? This money that we take from consumers will become play money in this years budget because we have not come to expect it for 2008 budget calculations. I would urge that if the cap lapses we designate the new funds to specifically reduce debt or pay for approved projects.

Despite my belief in capitalism and free market enterprise, which I believe are alive, we can debate whether or not gas stations lowered the price on July 1, 2006, I can guarantee the price of gasoline will go up the day this cap lapses.

Gas unfortunately is not a commodity any more; it too has become essential to our everyday life. Yes, I would love to see people take the bus, car pool more often or buy a hybrid. But buying gas to get to work has become as tough a decision as buying medicine or food. The country's overall energy policy needs work but locally we can and should ease the burden by capping taxes of all forms and reducing spending.

Finally, it is my opinion raising sales tax will have a disproportionate impact on our less fortunate taxpayers.

I urge you to maintain the cap on gasoline taxes if only as a means to push us to spend less and become more efficient. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA