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**Politicians Salivating Over How To Spend Hidden Gas Tax's
Billions of Dollars Before It Even Goes Into Effect**

Californians Unaware Hidden Gas Tax Is Coming; Low and Middle Class
Consumers Who Can Least Afford It Will Be Hardest

SACRAMENTO – Californians Against Higher Taxes (CAHT) Spokesperson Beth Miller released the following statement today following a proposal by Senate President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg, Sen. Loni Hancock and other politicians on how to spend the billions to be generated by the at least 12-cent per gallon hidden gas tax once transportation fuels fall under the cap-and-trade program on January 1, 2015:

“Instead of proposing a multi-billion dollar ‘climate strategy,’ our elected leaders should be focusing on improving the state’s economic climate for hard-working Californians. Rather than salivating over how to spend billions of dollars from a hidden gas tax that will impact every family’s budget and pocketbook, they should be calling for CARB to delay the transportation fuels regulation so that Californians who are still struggling in this economy are not blindsided by a 12-cent per gallon ‘tax.’ In particular, low income and minority households, who already spend nearly 30 percent of their budgets on transportation, will be hit the hardest.

“Californians already pay the highest gas taxes and highest price per-gallon for fuel in the nation. To add insult to injury, none of the billions of dollars taken from consumers and sent to state coffers will go to improving our streets and roads. Instead, as we’ve seen today, the money will be spent by politicians in Sacramento on pet projects of their choosing.”