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CONTACT: Beth Miller/Brooke Armour
(916) 551-1383

New Poll Shows Californians Strongly Oppose New Hidden Gas Tax

*New Air Resources Board regulation would increase gas prices
by 16 to 76 cents per gallon*

(SACRAMENTO)—A new poll by the respected Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) shows that an overwhelming number of Californians oppose a new regulation that would increase the cost of gas by at least 16 cents and as much as 76 cents per gallon.

“This poll reinforces what we’ve been saying all year—we all support improving the environment, but not on the backs of hardworking Californians still struggling with the lingering effects of the recession. Now is not the time to force a hidden gas tax of at least 16 cents and as much as 76 cents per gallon on economically disadvantaged residents,” said Beth Miller, spokesperson for Californians Against Higher Taxes.

According to [the new PPIC poll](#), while approximately 76 percent of Californians favor including transportation fuels in the cap and trade program, that support plummets to only 39 percent when they are told that this will lead to higher gas prices.

“Experts agree that the price of gas *will* go up when this new Air Resources Board regulation goes into effect on January 1, 2015. Even the Board’s own economic analysis says that prices will go up by at least 16 cents per gallon and could reach as high as 76 cents per gallon. It’s time that the Board started listening to the people of California and delay this hidden gas tax until a real economic analysis can be conducted,” Miller concluded.

Days before the Legislature recessed for the summer break, Assemblyman Henry Perea (D-Fresno) introduced AB 69, which would delay the hidden gas tax for three years. AB 69 will not only delay the CARB program until January 1st, 2018, but will also require the Air Resources Board to ensure that the state’s motorists, families and small businesses are prepared for this carbon price signal with sufficient notice, information and protection from certain and volatile cost increases for their transportation fuels.

At the same time, Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) is leading a bipartisan effort to demand the Air Resources Board delay the regulation until Californians have a better understanding of how this hidden gas tax will affect their budgets.