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June 11, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to request that your administration take immediate action to provide the same relief in gas prices to Western states as was taken through Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve releases in late May. As Arizona and the West continue to see some of the highest gas prices in the country, administrative action is needed.<sup>1</sup>

As you know, on May 21st, your administration announced the sale of one million barrels of gasoline from the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve with the stated goal of lowering gas prices. I fully support initiatives the administration has taken to reduce energy costs for consumers- actions that will become even more important as the hot summer months arrive.

However, after speaking to stakeholders in my home state of Arizona, it appears highly unlikely that the benefits of this action will extend beyond the northeastern region of the country. It would be cost prohibitive and nearly impossible for Arizona entities to transport the gas to our state because of limited pipeline capacity and requirements in the Jones Act. This is tremendously disappointing, since the gas prices faced by Arizonans remain consistently higher than the national average. Arizona families and business owners should not have to pay almost a dollar more than people in other states to get to work and move through their communities.

I therefore request that your administration take similar actions to address gas prices in the Western United States. I also ask that you share steps you plan to take to maintain these efforts throughout the rest of the summer while preserving parity across the country. Thus far, the only action taken in Arizona has been a temporary waiver of summer Cleaner Burning Gas requirements due to supply chain disruptions. While that waiver is greatly appreciated, even that is a limited tool that will soon expire. We cannot leave Arizonans to deal with steep gas prices alone while other regions see greater relief.

I look forward to hearing from your administration on next steps and ways we can work together to keep gas affordable across the country this summer.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/state-gas-price-averages/> (as of June 11)