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# RISING GAS PRICES IMPACTING WASHINGTON STATE DRIVERS

Gasoline prices are higher this summer than during the last four summers, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).<sup>1</sup> Across the country, summer gasoline prices are averaging \$2.87 per gallon, 53 cents higher than last summer. Diesel fuel, essential for transporting American goods to market, has increased an average of 66 cents this summer, to \$3.20 per gallon.<sup>2</sup>

Elevated gas prices are a burden on every American family and business and threaten our nation's continued economic growth and global competitiveness. The current run-up in prices is effectively a tax on every American family's discretionary budget, particularly in Washington state where drivers pay the third highest gas prices in the nation.

*Washington gas prices 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in nation*

In Washington, consumers use an average of 236 million gallons of gasoline each month.<sup>3</sup> Since gasoline prices are 60 cents per gallon higher in Washington than a year ago, increased gasoline prices will cost drivers approximately \$142 million more per month compared to what they paid last year. During the peak summer driving season, **Washington state consumers will pay \$452 million more than they paid last summer.**

The average household in Washington consumes 78 gallons of gasoline each month and 249 gallons during the peak summer driving season.<sup>4</sup> That means **the average household in Washington will pay \$149 more in fuel costs this summer driving season** as compared to the same period last year.

## GASOLINE\*

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| TODAY'S PRICE     | \$3.41 |
| LAST YEAR'S PRICE | \$2.81 |
| NET INCREASE      | \$0.60 |

## DIESEL\*

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| TODAY'S PRICE     | \$3.56 |
| LAST YEAR'S PRICE | \$2.82 |
| NET INCREASE      | \$0.74 |

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, July 10, 2018; average prices for June through August in each year.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Highway Administration, "Monthly Gasoline/Gasohol Reported by States - 2015," *Highway Statistics 2015*, December 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.; U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates of Housing Units for the United States," 2016, May 2017.

\* AAA Gas Prices, "State Gas Price Averages," July 23, 2018. \* The summer driving period covers the months of June through August.