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DISTRICT 13

Arizona House of Representatives

February 18, 2026

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for taking the time on behalf of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to meet with me on February 11, 2026, to discuss Arizona's Cleaner Burning Gas blend and the rising cost impacts that it is having on Arizona families at the pump. I appreciate both your understanding of the financial struggles that Arizona families face as California refineries that produce this boutique blend of fuel continue to shut down (leaving Arizona petroleum marketers with fewer supply options) and the importance of the 18-cent motor vehicle tax to your organization, which relies on funding from the state Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) to fund critical road maintenance and construction projects that Arizona drivers depend on.

As we discussed, House Bill 2400 (motor fuel tax holiday), which proposes to temporarily suspend the 18-cent tax in Maricopa and Pinal counties from the summer months of May through September when the higher-priced blend is in place, is not my preferred solution to addressing the immediate affordability challenges that my constituents are facing. As I noted, my preferred solution is to address the underlying blend and supply constraints that lead to the higher prices at the pump, but Arizona Republicans have been fighting for three years to address this issue and have so far been unable to obtain relief. Any effort to change the federal air quality requirements or control measures in our state's State Implementation Plan (SIP) would take time, and that time means additional costs that Arizona residents have to shoulder without relief. My bill, House Bill 2400, which passed out of the House Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee on February 3 on a party-line vote, represents our bona fide effort to provide relief *now*.

During our meeting, you helped me understand that, as the primary body responsible for modeling each fuel blend and other control measures against the Clean Air Act's 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, MAG's Environmental Division plays an important role in determining: (1) whether the current Cleaner Burning Gas blend is helping the Phoenix-Mesa Nonattainment Area meet federal air quality requirements; and (2) whether a change in blend or increase in other controls could result in lower total costs for everyone while keeping Arizona within applicable attainment standards.

Accordingly, this letter is to confirm the following requests I made during the meeting and to restate my sincere appreciation of your commitment to expediently relay those requests to your Environmental Division for processing:

- 1. Model the elimination of the summer Cleaner Burning Gas blend and assume all other SIP controls remain the same.**
- 2. Model the elimination of the summer Cleaner Burning Gas blend and assume other SIP controls are adjusted only as necessary to achieve compliance when the modeling results without such minor adjustments are otherwise just slightly over required levels.**
- 3. Model the elimination of the summer Cleaner Burning Gas blend and assume the measures in House Bill 2428 (emissions; reduction credits; counties) are passed and signed into law.**

I thank you and MAG again for your time and diligent effort to help the residents of Arizona who are struggling with rising costs, and I look forward to the Environmental Division's response as soon as it has completed the requested modeling on behalf of our concerned citizens. Please do not hesitate to reach out in the meantime to schedule any additional meetings or to discuss other ways in which we can achieve the dual objectives of funding critical highway projects while addressing critical affordability challenges being faced by our Arizona families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Willoughby".

Representative Julie Willoughby
AZ House Majority Whip LD 13