

PRESS RELEASE

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 28, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Karen May

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Rep. May Continues Efforts to Help Consumers Pay Less at the Pump

SPRINGFIELD – State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) Tuesday called on members of the General Assembly to join her in advancing meaningful policies to help drivers pay less for gas.

“Record high gas prices have unfortunately joined our a summer traditions like baseball games and lemonade,” May said. “I have been working for years to help bring consumers real savings and I urge my fellow lawmakers to join me in passing these measures instead of touting meaningless gimmicks that do not offer drivers any long-term savings, like the proposed gas tax holiday that would only serve to benefit big oil companies.”

May’s Fuel Efficiency agenda includes:

- **The Clean Car Act**, House Bill 3424, would require all vehicles manufactured or sold in Illinois to meet stronger fuel efficiency standards than the current federal standards being enforced. This measure would help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas produced by cars in Illinois while saving taxpayers money at the gas-pump.
- **“Green Rewards,”** through the Treasurer’s office is a state-funded program to provide tax rebates of up to \$1,000 for consumers who purchase a more fuel efficient vehicle. This program is the largest state rebate program fuel efficient vehicles in the nation and offers consumers a double incentive to save money on the purchase of a new car and every time they fill up at the gas pump.
- **58th District Ethanol Task Force**, made up of local residents of May’s district, helped develop the **Renewable Fuels Majority Blended Ethanol Infrastructure Grant Program**. Proposed by House Bill 2106 and Senate Bill 2861, this grant program would provide local governments and gas stations financial assistance to build ethanol (E-85) filling stations so that area residents can benefit from the cleaner burning ethanol fuel that helps reduce our dependency on foreign oil and can help drivers save over \$0.75 per gallon on E-85 fuel.
- **Driver Education**, including tips on driving habits that can help drivers save gas and money, as well as information on lower gas prices are provided to Illinois residents online at, www.illinois.gov/gasprices.

“People want more fuel efficient vehicles, but the unfortunate fact is that most manufacturers of fuel efficient cars are only selling in the fourteen states that have higher fuel efficiency standards, and drivers of flex fuel vehicles do not have local access to E-85,” May said. “We have real solutions to the rising gas prices in front of us, and we cannot wait until the price hits \$5 a gallon to pass these measures.”

For more information, visit www.ilga.gov, or contact May at (217) 782-0902.

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