



ROB BONTA
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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May 6, 2022

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Ste. 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1322 (Allen) Energy: petroleum pricing - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

The Attorney General is pleased to support Senate Bill 1322, the California Oil Refinery Cost Disclosure Act. California consumers deserve to know where their money is going as prices continue to rise at the pump.

Californians have cumulatively paid billions more for gas than consumers in other states. While environmental costs, fees, and taxes account for some of that difference, we also know there is more to the story. Californians deserve answers.

The Attorney General's Office has investigated gas prices, looked for price-fixing and market manipulation, and prosecuted bad actors that schemed to drive up the price of gas. On March 18, 2022, the Attorney General sent a letter to California refiners warning them against illegal market manipulation and other violations of state antitrust laws after the sharp increase in gas prices. The letter warned refiners not to take advantage of the current market disruptions as an opportunity for market manipulation.

Gas prices reflect a number of factors. While the recent spike in gas prices is largely due to pandemic-related fluctuations in supply and demand, Russia's war in Ukraine, and high crude oil prices, California's gas prices have increased faster and higher than the rest of the nation, and have been higher than they should be for years. SB 1322 will improve transparency and help determine what has caused the long-standing higher prices in California compared to other states.

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It may also shed light on whether any market players are taking advantage of current events to pad their profits at the expense of California consumers.

Californians have been paying too much at the pump for too long. SB 1322 should elucidate why.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jana Staniford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jana" and last name "Staniford" clearly distinguishable.

JANA STANIFORD
Legislative Advocate
Office of Legislative Affairs

For ROB BONTA
Attorney General