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## **SAUNDERS PROPOSES GAS TAX RELIEF**

### ***Tax Credit Up To \$300 for Families***

BELCHERTOWN, MA – **Aaron Saunders**, candidate for State Representative in the the 7<sup>th</sup> Hamden District today announced his intention to file legislation providing a gas tax credit for residents of Massachusetts. The plan as outlined would provide any taxpayer with a valid Massachusetts drivers license and vehicle registration with a \$150 refundable credit to offset the cost of the state’s gas tax. Families with more than one vehicle would be eligible for up to \$300 under the plan.

“Folks in Western Mass depend on their cars and trucks to get where they need to go.” Said Saunders, “Families in our region don’t need idle complaints about gas prices, they need relief from rising fuel costs and this plan provides a clear and attainable path for just that.”

Ludlow resident Jim Sicard agreed “I live in Ludlow and work in Montague, where the only way to get to get back and forth is to drive. Aaron’s plan will help take the edge off the increased cost of gas.”

Saunders explained that structuring gas tax relief as a tax credit avoids two major complications of simply suspending the gas tax. First, a tax credit goes directly to the taxpayer, and second, the credit does not interfere with the dedicated revenue stream for bond repayment currently provided by gas tax proceeds.

“I don’t trust that the giant oil companies and commodity speculators would allow a gas tax suspension to be passed through to the consumer. The only way we can ensure that the people who are paying higher prices get the relief they deserve is by providing the money directly to them.” Saunders said noting the record profits oil companies have realized during the uptick in gasoline costs.

The \$150 dollar tax credit would cover the gas tax cost of driving over 14,000 miles in a vehicle with an average fuel efficiency of 25 MPG. Saunders pointed out that the credit provides a relatively larger incentive for those who drive more fuel efficient vehicles.

In announcing the plan Saunders noted that if elected he intends to file the legislation to applicable for Tax Year 2022, however he hopes that approach would be taken up in the current legislative session. “I’m looking forward to filing this tax relief measure for an issue that has hit Western Mass particularly hard,” said Saunders, “But the best case scenario is that folks in our region see the tax relief they need before next January.”

The 7<sup>th</sup> Hampden State Representative district includes Belchertown, Ludlow, Pelham, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell, & Petersham.

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