

News From Senator Shirley K. Turner



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TURNER URGES CONSUMERS TO BE WARY OF SPIKES AT THE PUMP *Asks Governor and Attorney General to Protect Against Gas Gouging*

(TRENTON) – Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon) called on Governor Chris Christie and Attorney General Christopher Porrino to be on guard and protect New Jersey consumers against price gouging at the gas pump. Gas prices in New Jersey have spiked since Hurricane Harvey hit Texas and Louisiana last week, causing catastrophic flooding and the closure of refineries and the pipeline that supply fuel to the East Coast.

“Unfortunately, there are people and businesses that will take advantage of consumers when catastrophes hit,” said Senator Turner. “Some retailers today are charging over \$3.00 per gallon for regular gasoline, when the price was as low as \$2.15 a week ago in Mercer County. New Jersey is home to a number of refineries, and our high costs should not be attributed to the closure of the pipeline. We need to prevent any pricing improprieties that are being driven by greed.”

Senator Turner began receiving complaints from constituents who noticed the significant jump in prices. The skyrocketing cost of gasoline has a dramatic effect on working families, senior citizens, and others living on a fixed income. As the cost of gasoline increases and impacts businesses, New Jerseyans will also experience a rippling effect at the supermarket and when purchasing other goods.

“The increase in prices comes at a time when families are taking road trips over the long Labor Day weekend,” said Senator Turner. “We need to be alert and make sure that retailers are not taking advantage of the disaster by gouging consumers.”

New Jersey law prohibits retail dealers from raising the selling price of gasoline more than once in a 24 hour period. In 2008, Senator Turner sponsored legislation to increase the penalties for retail dealers that are repeat offenders.

Senator Turner urged consumers who believe that price gouging is occurring to file an [online](#) complaint with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. Complaints may also be made through the Consumer Affairs emergency hotline at (973) 504-6240.