

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Justin Wilmeth (R-2)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Thursday, August 29, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona House Republicans Call Out California Policies Threatening Arizona's Fuel Supply

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Justin Wilmeth, Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, along with several of his Republican colleagues, is urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to carefully assess the impact of his state's liberal energy policies on neighboring Western states and the nation.

California continues to push for aggressive climate and energy policies, including the recently proposed refinery storage mandates aimed at stabilizing fuel prices within the state. Over a third of Arizona's fuel comes from California refineries, making the state particularly vulnerable to decisions made in Sacramento.

In a letter sent to Governor Newsom today, the Arizona lawmakers expressed concern that reckless policies could severely disrupt Arizona's gasoline supply and drive-up costs for consumers. They noted that California's new fuel reserve requirements and other recent legislative actions were passed without proper consideration of the broader economic impacts.

"California's rush to implement restrictive energy policies without understanding the far-reaching consequences is dangerous and irresponsible," Chairman Wilmeth explained when discussing the letter. **"Our state depends on a stable and assured gasoline supply, and these ill-conceived extreme measures could threaten not only our state's economy but also the livelihoods of Arizonans. It's time for California to pump the brakes and consider the real-world impacts of their policy decisions on neighboring states like Arizona."**

In addition to Chairman Wilmeth, the letter is co-signed by Speaker Ben Toma and Representatives Michael Carbone (Commerce Vice Chairman), John Gillette, Teresa Martinez, Michele Penã, Quang Nguyen, Barbara Parker, Kevin Payne, David Cook, Joseph Chaplik, and Selina Bliss.

A copy of the letter is attached below.

Justin Wilmeth is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 2 in North Phoenix and is Chairman of the House Commerce Committee. Follow him on X/Twitter at @JustinWilmethAZ.

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COMMERCE,
Chairman
MILITARY AFFAIRS & PUBLIC
SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

August 29, 2024

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We, as members of the Arizona House of Representatives, are writing to express our concern about California policies that continue to limit fuel supplies and increase costs for consumers in California, Arizona and across the western United States.

Refineries, pipelines and the infrastructure needed to move energy and fuels are national assets that supply consumer, government, business, military and national security demands across the West. In Arizona, over a third of the fuel we use comes from refiners in your state. California energy and climate policies that affect refining costs, limits supply or, in a worst-case scenario, forces a refinery to shut down would have significant impacts to our state and beyond.

Examples of these types of policies are SB X1-2 and the newly proposed refinery storage requirements, which we expect will have national implications for the availability and cost of fuels and energy.

When it comes to energy policy, California politicians often rush to pile policy on top of policy without assessing the impacts to people in their state, the West and around the country.

We are asking you to reconsider the rush to policy. It is critical that no new energy law gets passed without fully understanding the consequences to not only your state, but to the West and the nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Wilmeth", written over a horizontal line.


Representative Justin Wilmeth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Toma", written over a horizontal line.

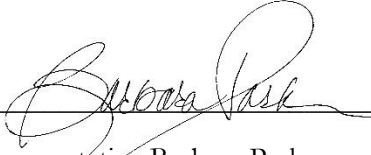
Speaker Ben Toma




Representative Teresa Martinez




Representative Michael Carbone



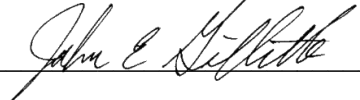
Representative Barbara Parker



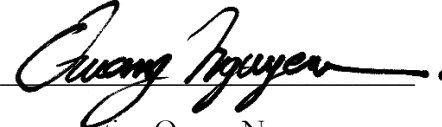
Representative Selina Bliss



Representative Joseph Chaplik




Representative John Gillette



Representative Quang Nguyen



Representative Kevin Payne



Representative Michele Pena



Representative David Cook