

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Via Hand Delivery
and Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org

June 16, 2022

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE

Speaker

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Prioritization of Bill No. 295-36 in June 17, 2022 Emergency Session

Dear Madame Speaker:

On June 16, 2022, as a courtesy, I spoke and corresponded with you regarding my intention to call a special session of the Legislature on June 17, 2022, for the sole purpose of considering Bill No. 295-36, a bipartisan bill that aims to alleviate the recent surge in gas prices by temporarily waiving the excise tax on liquid fuel, with exceptions, as well as the levy of automotive and mass transit automotive surcharges on liquid fuel. Following our discussions, you issued a Call to Emergency Session, certifying that conditions exist involving danger to the public health or safety in light of the continuous negative economic impact from the pandemic, attaching a petition to consider Bill Nos. 260-36, 261-36, 290-36 and 295-36.

Thank you for your efforts in bringing these bills to session. As we discussed, I believe this matter is of great urgency. This week, the national price of gasoline surged above \$5 for the first time in history. On Guam, gasoline prices perennially hover well above the national average. One year ago, regular unleaded gasoline cost \$4.61, and diesel cost \$4.72. Today, regular unleaded costs \$6.48, and diesel costs \$7.45. Several factors contribute to the recent spike, primarily the rising price of crude oil that has resulted from the impact of the war in Ukraine on global supply. While this ongoing geopolitical conflict is beyond our control and has no resolution in sight, we can and we must do what we can to help our people *now*.

While Bill Nos. 260-36, 261-36, 290-36 and 295-36 all propose different solutions to address the rising cost of fuel on our island, as noted in your Call to Emergency Session, only Bill No. 295-36 has undergone the complete legislative process in advance of session. It has received a public hearing, and the corresponding committee report has been filed and uploaded, which includes favorable testimony from interested government agencies, including the Guam Regional Transit

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Authority, the Mayors' Council of Guam, the Bureau of Budget & Management Research, the Department of Revenue & Taxation, the Department of Administration, and the Department of Public Works. The Bill further received supporting testimony from industry representatives, including Mobil Oil Guam and the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

In contrast, Bill Nos. 260-36, 261-36 and 290-36 do not yet have committee reports, and Bill No. 290-36 has not yet received a public hearing. In the absence of a full record and vetting on these bills, our Legislature and our public have limited information to determine their relative viability and merits.

Bill No. 295-36 is bipartisan, it has been thoroughly vetted, and it has the full support of all who have provided testimony on it. This Bill is good for our people, good for our economy, and good for Guam. Accordingly, I request that Bill No. 295-36 be given first priority for consideration in the June 17th Emergency Session.

Thank you for working with me on this issue, for the good of our people.

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Governor of Guam

Enclosure: Bill No. 295-36 (COR)

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*