



**Auto Consumer Alliance**  
13900 Laurel Lakes Avenue, Suite 100  
Laurel, MD 20707

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**Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee**  
**SB 332 – Gas Price Gouging Act**  
**Position: Favorable**

Feb. 10. 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

**Honorable Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:**

I'm a consumer advocate and Executive Director of Consumer Auto, a non-profit group that works for safety, transparency, and fair treatment for Maryland drivers and car buyers.

Consumer Auto supports **SB 332** because it will make posted gas prices more transparent and fair to consumers. Since most consumers purchase gas on credit, allowing dealerships to post only the lowest price for their gas – which very often is a cash price that is significantly lower than the credit price most customers will actually pay – gives consumers incomplete and sometimes misleading information about the actual price they are likely to pay.

Requiring dealers to prominently post either both the cash and credit price or the highest price of their gas will prevent customers from getting a nasty and costly surprise at the pump.

The cost of gas is a quite significant budget item for many of us – costing many families more than \$2,000/year and rising about \$600/year on average over the last year. This reform will give consumers fuller and fairer information to help manage the cost.

The relevant section of the Maryland Code (Business Regulation 10-315) already regulates signs at gas stations rather closely in an effort to make prices clear to consumers – right down to regulating the relative sizes of the numerator and denominator in a gas price quote. Yet that careful effort is undermined when gas stations gas can prominently display only the lowest price, without clearly disclosing that customers who use credit may pay significantly more.

We ask you to give **SB 332** a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

Franz Schneiderman  
Consumer Auto