

Good morning, my name is Chris Herb, I am the President of the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association. Our motor fuels members distribute gasoline and diesel fuel to over 1,000 locations in Connecticut.

I am joined by Diane Quesnelle from the Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island and Brian Moran from the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association out of Massachusetts to sound the alarm about the devastation that the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) will have on the availability of gasoline and diesel fuel in CT, MA and RI.

After a thorough review of data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and TCI's emission reduction targets, there is no way to avoid significant fuel shortages in our states.

To get an idea of what will happen if legislators approve TCI - we will see gas lines and fuel runouts similar to the ones that we saw in the southeastern United States last week due to a pipeline cyber security breach that caused panic among consumers.

The difference with TCI is that we can avoid that nightmare in our states if policymakers reject it!

It is unconscionable to think that lawmakers would vote for legislation that is specifically designed to limit the amount of fuel that can be sold to the public, but that is what the proponents of TCI are asking legislatures to do.

EIA data tells us that stricter fuel economy standards in the future and a migration to electric vehicles (EV) will not keep up with TCI's planned reduction in the amount of fuel we will need to ensure that every car and truck in our states will be able to fill up.

This nightmare scenario will become our reality in Connecticut and Rhode Island if our respective legislatures and the Governor of Massachusetts do not heed our warning.

Just like what we experienced during the pandemic when there was a run on hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and spray, and toilet paper – fuel shortages caused by TCI will lead to fuel hoarding, panic buying, price spikes, and economic hardship.

Unlike other fuel shortages that we have experienced in the past that were caused by weather events where the circumstances were unavoidable – this one would be created by the government and would occur ever quarter of every year for a decade.

TCI has no controls or other tools whatsoever to avoid this doomsday scenario. The only way to avoid supply disruptions is to reject legislation that would adopt this program. Instead of being the first states to guinea pig this program we should join the other nine states and take a pass.

We ask that legislators pause and take the time to understand the ramifications that TCI will have on the constituents and businesses. We believe that once TCI is fully understood policy makers will have no other choice but to reject it.