



Lieutenant Governor
RACHEL HUNT

Rachel Hunt
Lieutenant Governor

October 6, 2026

20401 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699

The Hon. Thom Tillis
United States Senator
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Ted Budd
United States Senator
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Tillis and Budd:

I am writing to you as leaders of North Carolina's federal congressional delegation to express the urgent need for action in Washington to provide relief to North Carolinians and people across the nation struggling with high costs related to extraordinarily high diesel gas prices.

Diesel prices have reached record levels, putting enormous pressure on North Carolina's farmers, truck drivers, small businesses, and working families. In North Carolina, diesel recently reached \$6.25 per gallon, just as farmers are entering the critical and fuel-intensive fall harvest season.

These costs do not stop at the fuel pump. Higher diesel prices increase the cost of planting and harvesting crops, transporting agricultural products, delivering goods, and moving essential supplies. Ultimately, those costs are felt by families through higher prices at the grocery store and across the economy.

North Carolina is taking steps to provide relief where we can. Effective October 1, the state began allowing certain agricultural users to use dyed diesel for highway purposes without state penalties through the end of 2026. We have also seen state legislative leaders, who had planned to be home until November's election, respond to public outcry by committing to a special session to address high fuel costs.

Location: The Hawkins Hartness House, Raleigh, N.C. 27602
Phone: 919-814-3684

I am encouraged that legislators in Raleigh are returning to support cost relief. There is an opportunity for leaders at every level of government to work together on practical, bipartisan measures that can put money back in the pockets of the people who need it most.

But state action alone cannot address a problem of this magnitude. We need federal action as well. President Trump's tariffs and the war in Iran have driven up costs in nearly every sector in North Carolina. Meanwhile, the President continues to ignore these consequences and instead claim simply that our economy is the greatest in the world.

I respectfully ask you to use your platforms and offices to express to President Trump the reality on the ground for hardworking North Carolinians and work toward immediate policy solutions to lower costs in North Carolina.

North Carolinians cannot afford to wait while these extraordinary fuel costs continue to squeeze their livelihoods and household budgets.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue and for your service to the people of our state. I hope you will use every available federal authority to help deliver relief as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the right of the signature is a small, faint square mark.

Rachel Hunt