

Fight status quo on N.J. self-service gas ban; Touchy about an attendant's touch | Feedback

By [South Jersey Times Letters](#)

Regarding the *South Jersey Times*' editorial, "Self-service N.J. gas? Can't hurt to ask," on Jan. 4:

"I feel that after Oregon started to lift its ban on self-service gasoline this year, it's time for New Jersey to do the same thing. We should have a choice that allows us to pick full service or self service at the same price, or no more than a 5-cent-a-gallon differential, so there would be no price gouging.

That would be a win-win situation. All of those with "Jersey Girls Don't Pump Gas" bumper stickers could still have their way, but other customers would not be inconvenienced by waiting for an attendant, or pulling into a gas station with most pumps are blocked by orange cones.

We need to fight the status quo in order to get this through, but the corrupt career politicians who oppose full service don't like to be open-minded. Good leaders are all about fighting the status quo, and not trying to "people please" everyone.

Sal Risalvato, executive director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience Store Automotive Association (NJGCA), had been a longtime opponent of self service, but [now he's a strong proponent for it](#). Risalvato needs to be more assertive with the Trenton politicians in order to get the ban lifted, and he seems like a no-nonsense kind of guy.

Another way to get self service is start a movement to put it up as a ballot question, so that we can let the people say if they want it or not. Even if they don't, at least they were able to share their opinions. Send letters to your local senators and Assembly members to start this movement, and so they can fight harder for you."

Phillip Bowden, Lakewood

Regarding the the *South Jersey Times*' editorial, "Self-service N.J. gas? Can't hurt to ask," on Jan. 4:

First, I guess you can say I break the New Jersey law against self-service gasoline every time I get gas.

I get out of my car. I swipe my credit card. I start the pump myself.

Most people don't realize that when I pump my own gas, I am not usually the one who is responsible for any fine that might be assessed. ([When the ban is enforced](#), state officials say, it's usually the gas owner who is cited, for not stopping the pump-your-own-customer.)

Second, I have a 1970s Corvette, a 1950s Ford and a motorcycle. I simply refuse to let anyone else pump gas in any of those vehicles.

Also, station owners might promise savings of 5 cents a gallon with self service, but they'd really just charge self-service customers the old full-serve price -- then raise prices on full-service customers. No one will ever save a nickel.

Jim Smith, Deptford Township