



New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJGCA Members Support Bill to Legalize Optional Self-Serve

Today, the New Jersey Legislature introduced legislation that would allow residents the option to pump their own gas or continue with full-serve from an attendant. Following the introduction, members of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA), whose membership includes nearly a thousand small business motor fuel retailers, released the following statements.

*“The current law that does not allow for self-serve is crippling my small business,” said **Joe Ocello, President of NJGCA and gas station owner.** “When I got into the business years ago it was a great way to make a living, a pathway to the American dream. But increasing prices and labor shortages are making it more and more difficult to run a gas station.”*

*“I can guarantee that allowing for a self-serve option will save motorists, who exercise their right to choose, money at the gas pump,” said **Kashmir Gill, NJGCA member and owner of multiple locations in Central Jersey.** “As a station owner, I know that the self-serve option will bring my businesses significant cost savings that I can pass along to my customers.”*

*“I am finding it increasingly difficult to keep my gas stations open due to the labor shortages, significantly impacting my business,” said **Levent Sertbas, NJGCA member and gas station***

owner. *“There have been multiple instances where I have had to close midday because I cannot find attendants to work the gas pumps.”*

*“Over the last few years, I have watched my station, and stations nearby, lose a significant amount of business to neighboring states due to high gasoline prices in New Jersey,” said **Ebbie Ashabi, NJGCA member and gas station owner.** “Permitting a self-serve option will put our businesses back on track to compete with our neighbors.”*

*“I offer all of my employees pay well above the minimum wage, and I still cannot find employees to work the gas pumps,” said **Ed Kashouty, NJGCA member and gas station owner.** “Finding people to work a gas pump, when they can make the same inside at a warehouse or retail store, is nearly impossible. Have the option for self-serve will allow me to keep my station open with minimal staff.”*

*“It is a regular occurrence at many stations to have multiple gas pumps blocked by orange cones because the owner does not have enough employees to work every pump,” said **Sal Risalvato, NJGCA Executive Director.** “Allowing for a self-serve option would allow them to open those pumps, while still offering full-serve for those who would like it.”*

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