

COUNTY OF RICHLAND
OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER



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Letter to the Editor:

Just four years ago in South Carolina gasoline sold for \$1.75 per gallon. Now, we're buying gas at over \$4.00 per gallon.

If you own a car that averages 20 miles per gallon, and drive 200 miles a week (10,400 miles per year = 520 gallons used per year) four years ago you paid \$910.00 a year for gas. Today, in that same scenario you now pay \$2,080.00 a year for gas.

You are not seeing things – you're paying \$1,170 more in gas than four years ago. So, a family in the suburbs that works in the city with two cars is now paying an extra \$2,340 a year for gasoline. A lot of you are paying even more.

The cost to your family has been debilitating in gas and groceries. The cost to businesses has been damaging to the economy – hurting employment. The cost of government to keep you safe (with police, fire, and medical services) has inflated – increasing your tax bill.

There is a lot to be said about energy prices and how to fix it, and I hope to be a part of that debate in years to come. There should be a lot said in this Presidential campaign about energy and how it affects our pocketbooks and our national security.

For now, though, I have one demand as a Treasurer in a small corner of this great country. If Hurricane Ike does not damage the production of gas/oil – gas prices must return to where they were on Wednesday, September 10th (and the prices should drop in one day, same as the way prices went up).

Anything else would be profiteering on the back of a natural disaster, at the expense of hard-working families everywhere.

David A. Adams
Richland County Treasurer