



Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am a New York State registered inspection Station. My trade association The Long Island gasoline Retainers Association (LIGRA), has been engaged in active discussions with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on the current requirements of the safety inspection program. We recognize that the current safety inspection regulations need to be updated to ensure driver and passenger safety. Guidance should also be provided for safety inspections of electric vehicles. A draft regulation was prepared by DMV they are the result of a lengthy process which included outreach to the trade associations, inspection station owners to solicit their opinions.

I am now writing to you to voice my concerns over the delay in releasing the regulations to update the safety inspection program and appropriately adjust the inspection fee.

We, the registered inspection stations, perform a vital service for motorists to ensure driving safety. Additional safety inspection requirements mean that certified inspectors need to spend more time conducting the inspection. The most recent change to the inspection regimen was mandated by legislative fiat with the addition in 2017 of the examination of tinted window. Previous, and now anticipated further expansion of motor vehicle safety inspections must recognize that the current fee is grossly inadequate. The fee has not been increased in almost four decades and remains at \$8 for the actual inspection with an additional \$2 to DMV for the inspection sticker, which is printed at the stations' expense and placed on the customer's vehicle by the certified inspector.

The current safety inspection fee does not come close to reimbursing us for the cost of performing the inspections. Fees imposed by the state are required to be reasonably related to the cost of the service provided. There is no justification for this impact on the small businesses that operate as inspection stations in a highly competitive market.

A reasonable increase in the safety inspection fee is a matter of fundamental fairness. There is no necessity for legislative or budget approval for this fee adjustment. A regulatory increase may be adopted by the DMV with your approval.

It is respectfully requested that enhanced DMV regulations on safety inspection requirements be published in the State Register and adopted as soon as possible to meet the state's commitment to highway safety along with a well-deserved and justified fee increase that more closely reflects the actual costs to conduct the safety inspection.

Sincerely,

