

United States Senate

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Schumer Study: Fuel Efficient Tires Could Save New Yorkers Millions of Dollars in Gas Costs and Reduce Dependency on Foreign Oil

The Schumer study illustrates how a relatively small change in tire equipment could result in huge savings in both fuel cost, and gasoline. The Schumer Amendment calls for every single replacement tire sold in America to adhere to fuel efficiency standards by 2008. The replacement tire market is massive, with over 228 million car and light truck replacement tires sold a year. While fuel efficient tires would save 4% in fuel a year, the cumulative conservation is staggering. In Upstate New York alone, consumers would save over 100 million gallons of gas a year in the first year of using fuel efficient tires alone. The cost savings to Upstate New York consumers would be close to \$225 million.

Consumers could save with a tiny increase in tire cost upfront, that would lead to greater savings down the road. The cost of making fuel efficient tires is only \$5 to \$12 more than less efficient tires, and would save the consumer between \$50 and \$100 over the life of the tires.

Schumer's study found the motor gasoline consumption from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), gasoline consuming vehicle registrations from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, regional fuel costs from the American Automobile Association, and tire efficiency data the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC.) A study by the NRDC estimated that fuel efficient replacement tires would result in a 4% fuel savings; the NRDC estimated that 27% of cars already have fuel efficient tires so, if every remaining car switched over it would result in a 3% fuel savings. Schumer's study multiplied the estimated gallons saved by regional gas price, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA,) to estimate the average annual savings to the consumer by the average regional fuel price as of Monday, June 20, 2005.

In the Capital Region fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$22.8 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **10.35 million** gallons of gas.

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Albany | 182,205 | 4,878,120 | \$10,761,100 |
| Fulton | 34,724 | 758,160 | \$1,672,500 |
| Montgomery | 31,992 | 1,130,580 | \$2,494,100 |
| Rensselaer | 98,385 | 2,193,360 | \$4,838,560 |
| Saratoga | 146,580 | 3,075,060 | \$6,783,600 |
| Schenectady | 102,774 | 2,097,450 | \$4,627,000 |
| Schoharie | 22,741 | 413,730 | \$912,700 |
| Washington | 37,712 | 677,970 | \$1,495,600 |
| Capital Region Total | 474,908 | 10,350,000 | \$22,800,000 |

In Central New York fuel efficient tires could save consumers almost **\$29.2 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve over **12.9 million** gallons of gas.

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cortland | 27,352 | 904,920 | \$2,036,070 |
| Madison | 40,436 | 623,940 | \$1,403,900 |
| Oneida | 137,606 | 3,202,380 | \$7,205,350 |
| Onondaga | 278,281 | 6,555,600 | \$14,750,100 |
| Oswego | 70,703 | 1,685,550 | \$3,792,500 |
| Central New York | 554,378 | 12,970,000 | \$29,200,000 |

In Rochester/Finger Lakes fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$38.9 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **17.2 million gallons of gas**.

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cayuga | 45,861 | 1,392,900 | \$3,147,950 |
| Livingston | 39,131 | 1,128,420 | \$2,550,230 |
| Monroe | 469,037 | 9,172,620 | \$20,730,120 |
| Ontario | 66,544 | 2,017,710 | \$4,560,025 |
| Schuyler | 11,970 | 293,910 | \$664,240 |
| Seneca | 20,359 | 607,590 | \$1,373,150 |
| Tompkins | 51,608 | 1,145,070 | \$2,587,860 |
| Wayne | 61,288 | 1,175,370 | \$2,656,340 |
| Yates | 14,059 | 257,190 | \$581,250 |
| Rochester/Finger Lakes | 779,857 | 17,200,000 | \$38,900,000 |

In the Hudson Valley fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$55.1 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **24.6 million gallons of gas**.

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Columbia | 46,520 | 1,333,740 | \$2,990,250 |
| Dutchess | 214,247 | 3,642,270 | \$8,165,970 |
| Greene | 37,793 | 926,790 | \$2,077,860 |
| Orange | 243,874 | 4,623,210 | \$10,365,240 |
| Putnam | 83,066 | 1,295,190 | \$2,903,800 |
| Rockland | 197,903 | 1,855,560 | \$4,160,170 |
| Sullivan | 54,542 | 1,166,520 | \$2,615,340 |
| Ulster | 130,924 | 2,806,710 | \$6,292,640 |
| Westchester | 612,358 | 6,934,140 | \$15,546,340 |
| Hudson Valley Total | 1,621,227 | 24,600,000 | \$55,100,000 |

In the North Country an estimated fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$17.1 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **7.75 million gallons of gas.**

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Clinton | 50,123 | 1,172,520 | \$2,586,580 |
| Essex | 24,325 | 599,790 | \$1,323,140 |
| Franklin | 28,165 | 536,670 | \$1,183,900 |
| Hamilton | 3,999 | 104,460 | \$230,440 |
| Herkimer | 37,254 | 958,140 | \$2,113,660 |
| Jefferson | 59,241 | 1,468,560 | \$3,239,640 |
| Lewis | 14,730 | 372,750 | \$822,300 |
| St. Lawrence | 58,996 | 1,217,190 | \$2,685,100 |
| Warren | 45,511 | 1,315,950 | \$2,903,000 |
| North Country Total | 322,344 | 7,750,000 | \$17,100,000 |

In the Southern Tier fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$21 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **9.5 million gallons of gas.**

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Allegany | 25,853 | 550,770 | \$1,222,700 |
| Broome | 126,178 | 3,275,220 | \$7,271,000 |
| Chemung | 54,812 | 1,086,810 | \$2,412,700 |
| Chenango | 32,661 | 723,930 | \$1,607,125 |
| Delaware | 34,761 | 700,200 | \$1,554,440 |
| Otsego | 38,388 | 944,100 | \$2,095,900 |
| Steuben | 60,801 | 1,542,930 | \$3,425,305 |
| Tioga | 33,070 | 632,640 | \$1,404,460 |
| Southern Tier | 406,524 | 9,500,000 | \$21,00,000 |

In Western New York fuel efficient tires could save consumers **\$40.9 million** a year in gasoline costs, and could conserve **18.5 million gallons of gas**.

| County | Vehicle Registrations | Estimated Gallons of Gas Saved Every Year | Estimated Gas Cost Savings |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cattaraugus | 46,318 | 789,840 | \$1,747,130 |
| Chautauqua | 79,449 | 1,338,480 | \$2,960,720 |
| Erie | 566,758 | 11,564,760 | \$25,581,250 |
| Genesee | 37,454 | 1,858,800 | \$4,111,670 |
| Niagara | 137,374 | 1,980,360 | \$4,380,560 |
| Orleans | 25,013 | 401,550 | \$888,230 |
| Wyoming | 23,690 | 536,370 | \$1,186,450 |
| Western New York | 916,056 | 18,500,000 | \$40,900,000 |

*****Data based on NYSERDA study of gasoline consumption by county, “Securing America: Solving Our Oil Dependence Through Innovation”” by the National Resources Defense Council, and average fuel costs according to AAA. Vehicle Registration data is from the New York State DMV, and includes the totals for gasoline consuming vehicles including standard cars, motorcycles, rental cars, and taxis.**