



Archuleta County  
Office of the County Attorney

---

398 Lewis Street ♦ P. O. Box 1507 ♦ Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147 ♦ 970-264-8321

September 7, 2022

Honorable Phil Weiser  
Colorado Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Colorado Department of Law  
Ralph L. Carr Judicial Building  
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

Steven Kaufmann  
Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Protection  
Colorado Department of Law  
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center  
1300 Broadway, 9th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

**[Re: Investigation into possible gasoline price gouging**

Dear Mr. Weiser and Mr. Kaufmann,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County and the citizens of Archuleta County, I am formally requesting an investigation into the elevated gasoline prices and the possibility of gasoline price gouging in Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs.

As you may be aware, the national average price for a gallon of gasoline has dropped below \$4.00 to approximately \$3.76 per gallon as of September 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup> In Colorado, the state average price for a gallon of gasoline has dropped to \$3.71 and even below \$3.00 in certain areas of the Front Range.<sup>2</sup> However, Archuleta County still suffers from significantly higher gasoline prices that average around \$4.39 per gallon<sup>3</sup> and which have not dropped for several weeks despite dropping prices across the State of Colorado.

By stark contrast, La Plata County and the City of Durango, which is just an hour to the west of Archuleta County along a major state highway, have gasoline prices per gallon that are \$0.60 less expensive, at \$3.80 per gallon.<sup>4</sup> In addition, only one county in Southwest

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CO>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CO>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CO>

Colorado has higher gas prices than Archuleta County, and that is Hinsdale County with an average price of \$4.98 per gallon.<sup>5</sup> Hinsdale County is significantly smaller than Archuleta County and much more isolated. By contrast, the average price for a gallon of gasoline in neighboring counties is as follows:<sup>6</sup>

- La Plata County - \$3.80
- Conejos County - \$4.08
- Rio Grande County - \$3.98
- Mineral County - \$4.01
- San Juan County - \$4.06

All these counties have gasoline prices that are at least \$0.30 less expensive than gasoline prices in Archuleta County, without explanation or reason. As a result, I am requesting that your office initiate a formal investigation into possible gasoline price gouging in Archuleta County.

Sincerely,



Todd A. Weaver  
Archuleta County Attorney

TAW/mh

Cc: Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (via email)  
Archuleta County Manager (via email)  
Pagosa Sun Newspaper (via email)

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CO>

<sup>6</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/?state=CO>