

Honorable Governor Nikki Haley
SC State house
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

3.21.2016

Dear Governor:

Why don't you as a leader behave as a responsible citizen in regard to roads and bridges. The enclosure will guide you to a logical, simple conclusion.

It shames me to know that the whole world is watching us stumble around insane, self imposed restrictions for the second year. Our state deserves better. Will you not help?

I am a retired engineer, and I am not perfect. Hence, I was not ashamed to look for ideas from Israel, France and Switzerland, to gather bits and pieces of each, and to write a computer program containing all these ideas, for the first time in the world. It was a complex task. It is useful predicting outcomes in a transient process and making production feasibility, managerial, and financial decisions.

You can and should do a similar thing, by first admitting that you and your legislators are not expected to know everything, which is obvious to everyone, and are not up to generating a realistic solution for change by yourselves. In other words, get some outside help as I suggested in the enclosure. This absolves you from grabbing fictitious numbers from the air, such as proper user gas tax, in order to move along in a logical direction with no political meddling..

Instead, you allow Mark Sanford (a disappointing, backward governor) dictate from Congress to maintain a denial of new taxes, no matter how necessary they may be, to create revenue from a specific instance of pinpointing a resource for it, to pay for itself. To you, a strange concept, indeed. It only demonstrates that you lack the necessary competence for creating productive ideas by yourself. Besides, your veto can be overturned by the legislation, if found off the mark.. Unfortunately, extant , bureaucratic thinking should not apply to you (it is what it is), our leader and a manager of our state. I hope not. We need a solution, not a hasty game of avoidance by ignorance. Get outside help, I implore you. to come up with a sensible, logical solution, without unnecessary political meddling.



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3/2016 **Let**

Raise the gas tax

Post and Courier

Sen. Larry Grooms and even Gov. Nikki Haley are considering \$400 million to get the ball rolling to repair and maintain the state's roads and bridges without a raise in the gasoline tax. This is a pure expense with revenue coming from the income taxes of all citizens. To me that's as amateurish as it can get. It encourages even more Georgians and North Carolinians to drive over the border to buy our gas on the cheap.

Even if you don't own a car, you pay the gas tax. It's enough to get our neighboring states and tourists laughing and scratching their heads in amazement and gratitude.

What I proposed months ago to our legislators was a logical, simple legislative solution. Use the math departments at USC and or Clemson, together with the S.C. Department of Revenue and the Department of Transportation, to calculate a realistic starting gas tax increase, to be designed for perpetuity to accomplish the task. Thereby it becomes a simple user tax.

The more you drive, the more you contribute toward roads and bridges. If you don't drive at all, you pay nothing. That way our neighboring states and tourists also contribute their share. In the meantime, revenue is created automatically to pay for the anticipated expenses.

Link it to the Consumer Price Index to avoid a yearly legislative hassle. What could be simpler than that? Keep it clean and simple, and act on it now.

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