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To:  
Date: 3/25/2017 3:59:03 PM  
Subject: Gasoline Tax ~ Website email from Joseph Fazio

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Thank you writing the informative article on raising the gasoline tax in SC which was published in the Post & Courier today. I agree with you 100%, it is not a taxing issue it is the way the government spends the tax payers money. I recently wrote the Governor a letter expressing my opposition to raising the gasoline tax. This what I wrote him, please take time to read it. Gov. McMaster's spoke the truth! S.C. residents are "taxed enough". Quoting the Gov. 4th paragraph of today's Post & Courier "I think most citizens & taxpayers would be surprised to learn that less than half of the gas tax money, to date, actually goes to fixing roads & bridges". Below is an article I wrote about the gas tax in 2015 which has never been published! A lot has been written in the Post and Courier recently about raising the state of SC gasoline tax. I would advise the tax payers of SC to be cautious. My wife and I retired here in 2013, we previously lived and worked in the high cost state of California for thirty five years. We could not afford to comfortable retire in CA due to high taxes and fees. We decide to sell our home in CA and relocate to SC for a number of reasons one being low taxes. Let me provide some info about taxes and fees related to fuel and auto sales in CA which should have been used for road/highway construction and maintenance. CA has some of the highest taxes/fees on the sale of all petroleum products in the country. Included in these taxes are federal, state, local, and sales taxes which are applied last. Taxes on top of taxes! The high vehicle sales tax is applied to everything that drives on land, floats on water, and flies. On top of that the high registration cost are added. CA also has high licensing and registrations fees, expensive smog checks, toll roads and car pool lanes. With all these taxes and fees are CA highways/roads getting better? The answer is no. If you don't believe me take a trip to LA to see for yourself. Much of the tax revenue goes into the state's general fund where the politicians spend it where ever they see fit and the state's treasure is billions of dollars in the red. The voters in CA tried for years to pass legislation requiring the state to spend the funds on roads only but to no avail. Now CA is getting more creative. The politicians in Sacramento are considering a mileage tax. Yesterday (1-26-15) I read an article on the front page of the Post/Courier on using some of the projected tax revenue on repairing the Intracoastal Waterway. So now all us land lovers have to pay for something we will never use. That is just the start, the politicians will find all kinds of ways to spend the money. So if the tax payers of SC wish to have what CA has than raise the taxes! It is never a tax problem it is a spending problem to quote Ronald Reagan. So elect politicians who will first spend our moneys correctly at all levels of government, federal, state and local before we consider raising taxes. Joe Fazio, 127 Welchman Ave, Goose Creek, SC 29445 843-737-5119 949-689-4566

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