

Governor Nikki Haley  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia SC 29201

3.10.2016

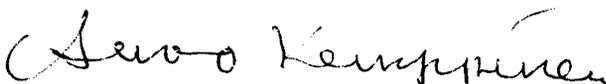
Dear Madam:

As the move toward a bill addressing the annual expenditures necessary to repair, maintain and build roads and bridges in SC becomes more urgent, I am putting forth my thoughts to add to the pile.

First of all, Senator Grooms and maybe even you deem an expenditure over 400 million to get the ball rolling, without a raise in gasoline tax. Doing so, this is a pure expense and no revenue, coming from the income taxes of all citizens. To me that's as amateurish it can get, no matter how much one drives (uses) our roads and bridges. It urges Georgians and North Carolinians even more to drive over the border to buy our gas on the cheap. Even if you don't own a car, you pay the extant gas tax. That's fair, isn't it? 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 measure to accomplish a solution for the future years. Use the math departments at SCU and or Clemson, together with SC department of revenue and DOT to calculate a realistic starting gas tax increase, to be designed for perpetuity to accomplish the task. It beats grabbing numbers by the seat of your pants. Thereby it becomes a simple user tax, earning it's own income. 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 consumer price index, to avoid a yearly legislative hassle. What could be simpler than that?

So, keep it clean and simple and act on it now, without playing games! Remember, elections are coming up. We are tired of the childish approach of yours, when confronting a serious problem, as usual.

  
Auvo Kemppinen M.S. Eng., MBA, P.E.. (Ret.)  
329 Lake Moultrie Drive  
Bonneau, SC 29431

