

From: benjammine@yahoo.com <benjammine@yahoo.com>  
To:  
Date: 3/22/2017 3:25:37 PM  
Subject: gas tax ~ Website email from benjamin hawthorne

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Kevin Bryant, Lieutenant Governor State of SC Sir: I am a resident of Greenwood County and read the article you had published in the local newspaper, the Index-Journal, concerning the proposed gas tax hike. I have several points I would like to make about the subject. First, I am as opposed to a tax hike as anyone, but this one would be partly paid by non-SC residents who travel through the state as well so it spreads the pain around more equitably. Also, it is by its nature a user-tax so is more palatable to us conservatives. Both NC and Georgia have higher gas than SC so those traveling through already wait to fill their tanks here in SC. Second, as usual, you are looking at only 1 side of the equation; the other side is, what benefits do we accrue? What is it costing SC citizens in terms of auto repairs to drive on the current roads? What is the cost in lost time, productivity, added stress and injuries? How does it look to businesses looking to locate here or potential retirees? Thirdly, the roads have been neglected for DECADES and any comparison with insufficient budget increases due to population increases or increased road miles is extremely simplistic. SC needs a large influx of money and politicians like you need to do your jobs and FIX IT! You talk about politicians as if you aren't one! How is a cabinet-level agency going to be more responsible than the SCDOT Commission? Is it not political as well? And why turn roads over to the counties? They will have to raise taxes, as well, which we will still have to pay + another layer of bureaucracy to deal with! We all know the reason that new construction takes precedence over repairs is the presence of matching federal funding. NOTHING at the state level is going to change that formula and it is disingenuous of you to suggest it! Your posturing over this issue is disappointing and counterproductive! Sincerely, Benjamin Hawthorne

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