

December 24, 2014

Gov. Nikki Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Gov. Haley:

It is with great interest that I have read many news stories about the need for highway improvements all across this State that I have called my home for the past seventeen years. Permit this "transplanted Yankee" to offer a suggestion or two.

There seems to be consensus opinion that South Carolina needs something in the vicinity of \$43 BILLION dollars in increased revenue over the next twenty-five years to make the necessary repairs and expansion to our state-wide system (including an Interstate level route to the Grand Strand). With the significant drop in the price of gasoline during recent months, it would seem prudent to "bite the bullet" and increase the gas tax NOW when the consumer would scarcely feel the added costs. Figure we need \$50 BILLION given the inflationary pressures that will be felt over the next twenty-five years. We'll require \$2 BILLION a year over this period. I'm certain that government officials know how much can be raised with each .01 cent increase in the gas tax. Here's my plan:

2015	add .05
2017	add .02 more
2019	add .02 more
2021	add .02 more
2023	add .02 more

This plan would raise the total tax collected on a gallon of gas .13 cents by 2023 and still leave the State well below the national average. Have your statisticians put a pencil to my plan and if it doesn't raise the needed \$50 BILLION, tweak my figures and let's get on with a solution.

Although you have been quoted repeatedly as NOT wanting to raise taxes, unless you have a magic wand, this is the fastest and surest route to raising the funds THAT ARE NEEDED.

Meanwhile, this seventy-seven year old retiree wishes you a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Mike Cherry
527 Winterberry Lane
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Cc: Sen. Luke Rankin
Rep. Mike Ryhal