



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**

CHAD WALLDORF, Chairman  
HOWELL CLYBORNE, JR.  
EMERSON F. GOWER, JR.

FRANK A. RAINWATER  
Executive Director

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor  
State of South Carolina  
State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Haley,

This letter is in response to a request made on your behalf by staff for the revenue impact of reducing the current fixed rate tax per gallon (16-cents) of gasoline to eight cents per gallon, and introducing an *ad valorem* tax rate (percentage of value) based on the consumption of gasoline of three percent per gallon. Also, what would be the overall cent-per-gallon equivalent gasoline tax rate?

Based upon data received from the S.C. Department of Transportation on current motor fuel user fee tax collections, the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration on motor gasoline and distillate fuel demand projections by calendar year, and the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office's price elasticity of demand estimate for motor fuels, the reduction of the current excise tax rate on gasoline from 16-cents per gallon to 8-cents per gallon, and introducing an *ad valorem* tax rate based on the consumption of gasoline of an estimated 3.0% would increase gasoline tax revenue by an estimated \$54,848,968 in FY2015-16. The same amount of gasoline tax revenue would be raised if the excise tax was increased by 2.02 cents per gallon to 18.02 cents per gallon of gasoline in FY2015-16. Please note that this estimate is based on a particular set of assumptions and estimates in the future may vary significantly as economic conditions change.

If we may be of any further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank A. Rainwater".

Frank A. Rainwater  
Executive Director

FAR/rwm

cc: Christian Soura, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Joshua Baker, Budget Director