

Dear GOP Member of the General Assembly,

As a long time conservative and Republican activist, a former SCC member to the Republican Party of Virginia, and a Virginia taxpayer, I'm writing to you to express my deep concern over the current proposal by the Governor to replace the gas tax with a higher general sales tax.

I believe that this proposal is **wrong for Virginia, wrong for taxpayers and wrong for our Party.**

It fundamentally breaks a bond of fiscal responsibility that has been at the core of conservative politics for generations. It confounds a public that is looking for leadership – not gimmicks. And it will hurt a fragile economy by shifting a significantly higher tax burden to average Virginia families who can afford it least.

**Make no mistake; this is clearly a hefty tax increase for Virginians. Our Party will be seen as abandoning our historic political role to benefit special interests that would clearly profit from this proposal.**

A wiser place to start to fix Virginia's transportation issues is to **remove the non-road spending** from the transportation budget and insure that every penny raised by our gas tax goes to road maintenance and construction. Mass transit and Metro projects, and other non-road spending should be moved to the general budget and should be judged and funded as a clear and transparent budget item, as opposed to simply raiding the gas tax revenues.

Finally, I challenge you to look at "out of the box" answers to grow the economy of our Commonwealth. The empirical evidence is very clear; if we did away with the **individual income tax** and replaced the revenue with a higher general sales tax, and did away with **business income and licensing taxes** replacing them with a business "asset" tax - we could dominate the mid-Atlantic economically, providing the rich soil of freedom and responsibility for job and income growth, and economic expansion for a new generation.

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