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Remarks for the House Transportation Committee public meeting at
Washtenaw Community College on April 23, 2010

Chairman Byrnes and Committee Members, thanks for letting me comment.

Michigan has many worthy transportation needs at the local, county and state levels, but we do not have enough funding for all of them. I spoke for the National Motorists Association at the Transportation Funding Task Force meeting in Lansing in September 2008. I said the NMA would support a reasonable increase in the state gas tax IF the new monies were dedicated to our roads. Today, I would like to put some numbers to what this might mean for all of us.

Michigan drivers will purchase about 4.4 billion gallons of gasoline in fiscal 2011. If the gas tax were raised by 50%, or another 9.4 cents per gallon, this would raise over \$400 million additional dollars which would be spent primarily on roads. This amount would go a LONG way toward relieving some of our problems in road funding. The total increase at the pump would be under 10 cents per gallon. Given the volatility of fuel prices in recent years, that amount would get quickly "lost" in the fuel price swings we all experience.

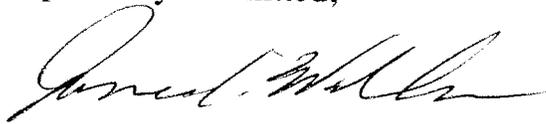
A person driving 15,000 miles per year with a vehicle that gets 20 mpg uses 750 gallons per year. The increase would cost them less than \$75 per year or less than \$1.50 per week. A similar person with a vehicle that gets 30 mpg would spend less than another \$1 per week.

We are convinced that the public would happily spend another \$1 or \$1.50 per week in fuel taxes IF our roads were truly in better shape with the additional funding. Correctly announced with the knowledge that the increase goes to roads, we do not think many people would object.

The fuel tax very fairly apportions the road funding to the users, unlike a large registration fee increase which would unfairly burden multi-car households and low mileage drivers. This would be particularly true for households with a vehicle which is not used as a daily driver, such as a classic car or a truck that is used only occasionally.

We urge the legislature to take this route and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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