



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
President

January 9, 2008

Dear legislator,

In light of the current funding debate, I write to urge you not to raise taxes. Rather than looking to a “quick fix” through raising the gas tax, I encourage you to prioritize spending and implement real reform to meet transportation goals. With other options on the table, raising the gas tax is not in the best interest of taxpayers or South Dakota’s economy.

Gas tax increases are exceptionally damaging. Hiking motor fuel taxes drives up the cost of living, because every product and every service you buy has to be transported. **With a heavier tax burden, it will be harder for South Dakota families to buy food, drive to soccer practice, heat their homes or take a vacation.**

Raising gas taxes is an idea that voters across the country strongly oppose. Even in the weeks following the Minnesota bridge collapse, nearly 60 percent of Minnesota taxpayers were opposed to raising the gas tax to fund transportation projects.

**Last year, South Dakotans were forced to work 177 days just to pay for the cost of government spending and regulations. The last thing South Dakota families need is higher taxes and more government spending.**

As you prepare to head into session to debate this issue, I urge you to do what is right for South Dakota and reject penalizing taxpayers for getting where they need to go.

ATR stands ready to assist you in the fight against higher taxes. Enclosed is a policy brief titled “Let Free Market Solutions Steer the Transportation Debate.” Please do not hesitate to call on me, or contact our state team, Karri Bragg or Sandra Fabry at 202-785-0266.

Onward,

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