



Friday, January 20, 2012

Session Week 2

Gas Tax Increase

This legislative session has started with talk of a possible gas tax increase. Currently, there is no bill in the House or Senate that proposes a gas tax increase, but it has been named as a priority by legislators in both chambers.

Iowans for Tax Relief is urging the Iowa Legislature **not** to raise the gas tax on Iowans at a time when gasoline prices are predicted to spike. ITR believes this is the wrong time to consider an increase when Iowans will already be spending a larger portion of their family budgets on transportation.

Furthermore, there has been little discussion or research about the impact a gas tax increase would have on communities that border Iowa. ITR believes a study of border communities would find that significant numbers of non-Iowans who come to Iowa weekly to buy gas, groceries, etc, would rethink those trips and stay home if Iowa had a higher gas tax. ITR is encouraging legislators to think about the consequences a gas tax increase would have on border communities before considering any gas tax hike.

ITR supports the Governor and Legislators who plan to ask the Department of Transportation to find efficiencies to help pay for road repair, rather than a blanket gas tax increase that would harm Iowans' wallets.

ITR encourages you to email your legislators to ask them not to raise the gas tax. You can find their e-mail addresses by going to ITR's Legislator Lookup feature at:
http://www.taxrelief.org/pages/all_legislators.

Commercial Property Tax Reform in Sub-Committee

The House version of commercial property tax reform (HSB 500) was discussed in the House Ways and Means sub-committee this week. Legislators not on the Ways and Means committee and the public were given the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on the bill. Most individuals and groups that commented agreed that this bill is taking steps in the right direction for true property tax relief. ITR will continue to watch the progress of this bill and keep you updated along the way.
