



Governor Announces Efficiencies

This week Governor Branstad announced \$50 million in efficiencies from the Department of Transportation. These efficiencies were originated to help cover the shortfall for road repairs. It is important to note that \$33 million of the \$50 million in efficiencies will be annual savings and only \$17 million will be one time. Iowans for Tax Relief applauds the Governor and the Department of Transportation for working towards these savings, but we are disappointed by legislators that continue to push for a gas tax increase on all Iowans.

Despite the new found savings, Senator Rielly, D-Oskaloosa announced that he would be moving forward with a bill, in the Senate Transportation Committee, to raise the gas tax by 8 to 10 cents. This is more disappointing when considering that the Director of the Department of Transportation, Paul Trombino, stated in a House Transportation committee meeting on Thursday that, "our primary road system is functioning well".

ITR still believes that this is the absolutely wrong time to raise the gas tax on Iowans, especially, by such a significant amount. We continue to urge legislators to consider the economic consequences such an increase would have on border communities and many hardworking Iowa families.

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/legislators>.

Property Tax Reform out of House Sub-Committee

Both the Governor (HSB 519) and House (HSB 500) versions of commercial property tax reform have been passed out of sub-committee and can now be brought before the full House Ways and Means committee for consideration. Both of these bills bring positive reform that is needed to keep and bring businesses to Iowa. Iowans for Tax Relief is excited about this potential property tax reform, and hopes that compromise can be found between the Governor, House and Senate.