

From: Jonathan Lee
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 7:09 AM
To: comment, cotce
Subject: Increasing the Gas Tax

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for undertaking this difficult but incredibly important work.

Joseph Bankman's August 11 editorial in the San Jose Mercury News makes a lot of sense. We can use taxes to reflect negative externalities, and gasoline has a very high hidden cost. I would be happy to pay \$8-10 a gallon (like the UK) and a restored or even increased Vehicle License Fee. We can limit the regressiveness of the gas tax with a corresponding reduction or credit for the lowest income tax bracket.

As someone whose salary is over \$100K, I also would be happy to pay more income and property taxes. Yes, we want to encourage business investment and wage earning. At the same time, a progressive income/wealth tax seems fair to me.

My parents could not send me to the local elementary school when Prop 13 necessitated cutting after school programs. California has been on a slow slide ever since. How can we continue to be a world leader if we do not invest in the future? Please come together and persuade Californians to rebuild our greatness.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lee
Sunnyvale, CA