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General Assembly Returns Wednesday

I-81 Gas Tax Back Up for Discussion

The General Assembly returns Wednesday for a one day "reconvened session" to discuss the governor's amendments to legislation passed during the last session. Today we learned that the governor has included an amendment to add a local gas tax to all stations along the I-81 corridor. Also included is a new legislation fee for heavy trucks and a diesel tax increase.

These amendments can be [found here](#).

We remain strongly opposed to expansion of local fuels taxation in that it will move motor fuel and other purchases from jurisdictions with the new taxes to adjacent communities without the tax.

We ask that you contact your legislators today and tell them that you are opposed to the Northam amendment to impose additional gas taxes in Virginia- an idea that was considered and then rejected during the session.

Here is the information on how to contact your legislators: [Who is my legislator?](#) They are likely to be in their district until Tuesday, so please use that phone number and follow up with an email to the House of Delegates email address.

Here are the points to make:

- Unlike Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia the transportation districts along-81 are not compact nor contiguous, nor do they have rapid transit which Virginia law requires before imposing a local gas tax. Unlike the two urban

locations, how are 26 counties and 13 independent cities - some of which are 325 miles apart, going to agree on funding priorities?

- Enacting a local gas tax for I-81 jurisdictions means gallons will transfer from those locations with the tax to those without it. This transfer will create an economic hardship for those stations forced to assess the tax.
- It will be a bonanza for fueling locations in places like Opal and Zion Crossroads, but will mean gridlock for Route 17, and Interstates 64 and 95.
- The proposed tax on fuel is not a 2.1 percent wholesale tax. It would be a new tax of 7.6 cents per gallon for gasoline, and it would be paid at the pump by the consumer.
- Assuming a vehicle has a 20 gallon tank, drives 20,000 miles per year and gets 22 miles per gallon drivers will pay \$1.35 more for each fill up, or \$69.98 annually.
- Once again drivers of electric vehicles won't contribute at all as they don't pay fuels tax.
- Creating two Virginia's will also disenfranchise those Virginia jurisdictions without the tax. They receive nothing under this plan. Certainly, there are unmet transportation needs in the far Southwest, the Route 58 corridor, metropolitan Charlottesville and Richmond, the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Southside. What about the Eastern Shore?
- Please don't create two Virginia's. We ask that General Assembly members oppose the Northam amendment to impose a new 7.6 cents per gallon fuels tax in I-81 jurisdictions.