



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sunday, December 4, 2005

Gas Tax

Transportation system needs funds

Whoa, not so fast! I hope state legislators stop to think what's best for Wisconsin taxpayers before eliminating gas tax indexing ("Senator aims to curb yearly gas tax boost," Nov. 30).

Yes, Wisconsin's gas tax is already among the highest in the nation, but the gas tax and extremely low registration fees are about the only ways that the state funds our transportation systems. Wisconsin taxpayers pay less for transportation than those from any other Midwest state.

Last year, indexing raised just over \$4 on the average car licensed in Wisconsin. That's nothing compared to yearly increases in sales, income and property taxes that we all pay.

The gas tax isn't such a bad way to pay for transportation costs; after all, users pay more the more they use, including out-of-state drivers who pay a substantial portion of our state transportation tab.

No, let's stop and think before jumping on this faulty bandwagon. For every dollar that's lost by eliminating indexing, the state will have to find another way to get in our pockets if the state's transportation systems are to remain strong.

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