

The Des Moines Register

Gas tax money is plentiful - and wasted

September 1, 2007

I read a letter to the editor on Aug. 23 about a man who wanted to raise gas taxes to renew our infrastructure. While his logic sounded compelling on the surface, he did miss a few things.

Right now, Iowa imposes a tax of more than 20 cents per gallon of gasoline sold. The federal government also imposes a tax of almost 19 cents a gallon. That's almost 40 cents per gallon in taxes.

The government collects this even though it has nothing to do with the exploration, refinement, distribution or sale of this gasoline.

Do you really imagine that Iowa spends that tax money on supporting our infrastructure? I have my doubts. If it did, we would have the best infrastructure on the face of the Earth. Some of that money just evaporates. Where it goes is anybody's guess; it's just gone and no one is accountable.

We don't need another tax. We just need an efficient use of the ones we already pay.

- Jack Christensen,
Estherville.

Copyright © 2005, The Des Moines Register.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 1/3/2003).