



Governor Warns Against Gas Tax Increase

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DES MOINES, Iowa -- Gov. Chet Culver is warning Democratic leaders that they shouldn't count on increasing the gasoline tax anytime soon.

Culver is also warning them not to plan on any big new spending programs.

During a private meeting Monday, Culver told legislative leaders that the state faces tough budget times and should plan their agenda accordingly for the upcoming session.

Lawmakers had been considering raising some taxes to cover what a study predicted would be a \$200 million shortfall for road repair and construction costs in Iowa.

Legislative leaders conceded that Culver's position effectively takes a gas tax increase off the table and said they would focus on other issues.

The governor said he's willing to consider other options for funding infrastructure repairs, but he made no commitments.

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