

From: frank
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2015 11:17 PM
To: Pebblin Warren [<mailto:tiger9127@bellsouth.net>]
Subject: Re: Proposed Macon County Fuel Tax legislation

Representative Warren,

I am disappointed you are not willing to permit the citizens who will be directly affected by this new tax to have a say in the matter. Time has no value as compared to the money many will be forced to pay the government simply to drive their vehicles or purchase other types of fuel. At the most, governmental growth can only be justified to equal growth of the local economy; nothing more. Any additional governmental growth will financially hurt the economy.

With the board definition of gasoline as “any device or substitute therefor[e] which is commonly used in internal combustion engines,” this bill has no measureable limits.

What restrictions are placed upon the county and economic development board in how they are able to use this new tax money?

I attend every county government meeting and often wonder how this or that is being accomplished while the county is “financially stressed” as the chairman likes to remind us.

Some of the citizens of Macon County can afford the new tax or simply drive 20 miles for cheaper fuel. However, there are many of our neighbors who can ill afford the trip to Auburn or elsewhere for their fuel; these are the same people who struggle daily to survive. As you are aware, fuel prices in Macon County are already higher than our neighboring counties.

Just last night Roland Vaughn and a gentleman from Las Vegas presented a plan to our commissioners to develop 700 acres at exit 38 with comments of buying out the contracts of Auburn based JC Penny’s and Dillard’s to relocate to their development. If I understood them correctly last evening, closing on the Mr. Herron’s (?) property is within 45 days. Many big names department store chains were placed on the large poster of the land and included a golf course, gated community, a movie theater, Cabela’s and many others are in the midst of discussion.

Will the fuel tax be sunsetted when the proposed tract begins to collect sales tax and ad valorem taxes?

You have lived much longer in our improvised county than me. From our conversations of how you and your husband continuously help your needed neighbors I find the big arm of government in this issue to be counter to your personal efforts.

I fail to see a legitimate urgency to deny the citizens a vote on a new tax because of the commissioners’ poor planning. Macon County has been struggling for the 25 years I

have lived in Notasulga and all but one commissioner has been in office for a couple of terms. Therefore, because of their poor planning you agree to accept their lack of foresight and lack of basic economics to further financially stress the masses, in particular the better than ¼ of us who live in poverty, including 100% the families of our school aged children.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider and modify your legislation to include a referendum during the next available ballot. I feel that at least one, if not both, of the gaming bills will be on a ballot before Nov 2016.

And how will the citizens survive when the school board seeks more money. Needless governmental growth must be stopped and you have that power.

Might I also add that unfortunately, the legislature, you in particular, will be the owner of this additional burden on the citizens of Macon County, not the four county commissioners with clean hands.

Respectfully,

Frank Dillman

www.LetBamaVote.org

www.frankdillman.com

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Due to the urgency for financial resources, Beasley and I agreed to do the no vote version. As you are aware, Sen.Marsh's gambling bill proposes and special referendum in September, but it is not guaranteed. Therefore, we could not wait for Nov. 2016.

On May 11, 2015, at 7:09 AM, frank wrote:

Representative Warren,

In reference to your proposed Macon County Fuel Tax legislation, filed at the request of the Macon County Commission, I respectfully request that it be revised for a referendum to the Macon County citizens directly impacted by the legislation, rather than legislators from across the state and the governor.

No one other than the Macon County Commission should have the dirty hands for their lack of understanding of Econ 101.

Respectfully,

Frank Dillman

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