

From: Marc Grober [<mailto:marc@interak.com>]
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Subject: HB 60

Dear Representatives,

In advance of your hearing on HB 60 the whiners are already out in force, banging the drum about the "200% tax increase", and leaving out the fact that this translates to an additional \$.08 per gallon. Enough!

It is the whiners who have been bellyaching that Alaskans should pay their way, and now that they are asked to actually do that, the only thing you hear is their whimpering.

The fact of the matter is that most people in Alaska who own cars live in our urban regions, and the median family income in those regions is in excess of \$80,000! And, as any competent economist will tell you, most of Alaskans make no net payment for any State or Local service.

Partly as a result of that we now have families of four driving four huge SUVs/Pick-ups who now want someone else to pay to maintain the streets they are tearing up. In the meantime, our pedestrians and bike riders can't even use our thoroughfares while our cities are buried in oily grey sediment.

It is high time motorists paid their fair share, and that means the tax on gasoline should be \$8.00/gallon as opposed to \$.08/gallon! I have argued that as part and parcel of a progressive income tax we could raise fuel taxes to appropriate levels, and then provide some interim relief for first 100 gallons (see, e. g. <http://opinion.alaskapolicy.net/pardonme/?p=607>) but no one in Juneau seems interested in a comprehensive approach to financing our way of life - fear of whingers, apparently).

If someone REALLY wants to talk about welfare queens, they need look no further than the Alaskans who want something for nothing, and I am sorry to say this as someone who has been an Alaskan Republican for over 30 years, but it would appear that most of the people refusing to pay for what they get are Republican ideologues... the kind of people who think that you fix a cash starved operation by cutting the funding by 25%; the "me, mine, more" crowd.

I have no problem with someone who wants to drive a two-ton monstrosity to go to work at a State job created purely so they don't have to wait in lines, as long as they don't mind paying \$32 in tax every time they and their loved ones leave the house in the morning :-)

Marc

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