



Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

On behalf of thousands of Americans for Prosperity-Minnesota activists across the state, I am writing today to urge you to vote “yes” on HF4437 and inform you that this bill will be scored in our upcoming 2017-18 Legislative Scorecard. As a leading grassroots voice for free-market principles, our scorecard will empower citizens to hold their lawmakers accountable to the principles of economic freedom and limited government.

We are very concerned with unsustainable growth in spending levels and its impacts on taxpayers, as laid out in our “Roadmap to Prosperity” Legislative Agenda released prior to the Session.

HF4437 would place a question on the ballot asking voters to approve a constitutional amendment to dedicate transportation-related sales taxes to transportation projects. Transportation infrastructure is one of the core functions of state government, which is why our constitution itself contains an entire section on highway funding. It is vitally important for both residents and businesses to have safe and effective roads and bridges and equally critical that a long-term and reliable funding source be put in place.

The current administration has tried for years to increase the state’s gas tax, arguing that “new money” is needed to solve our transportation challenges. However, general fund spending per biennium is nearing the \$50 billion mark – a nearly 150% increase since Governor Dayton took office. It is abundantly clear Minnesota does not have a revenue problem, we have a spending prioritization problem.

This bill solves that by asking the people to constitutionally dedicate existing revenues to one of the core constitutional responsibilities of state government. It’s that simple. There is no reason that new taxes need to be raised to meet our transportation obligations.

The gas tax and license tab fees are already dedicated to road and bridge construction; it makes sense that transportation-related sales taxes would be, too. With a projected budget surplus, now is the right time to make structural reforms like this one to ensure long-term stable funding for critical transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
State Director - Minnesota
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.