

## A GRASSROOTS PROPOSAL

The upcoming election in November has rightfully encouraged enormous discussion among Most of this dialogue however, has centered on the candidates from president to county Linger in this election maze is a very important ballot issue to be decided by the voter.

In an effort to help you make an informed decision, I thought the following background would prove helpful. Constitutional amendment #3 will be on the November 2nd This proposal was placed there by the initiative petition process. The proposed amendment, if approved, would phase in over four years an end to the œgas tax , and would propose no new tax. After successful passage of the 2 cent, 2 cent, and 2 gas tax in 1992, most Missourians were led to believe that all of this new revenue would be for road construction and repairs. In truth, most of it was, but a portion of the proceeds diverted to several state agencies to help fund their departments. These include the state , the Department of Revenue, and the Missouri Highway Patrol, among others. Successful of this amendment would simply state that existing gas tax and vehicle revenues would used exclusively for payment of road maintenance, repairs, and construction with the of continued funding for the Highway Patrol.

The effort to end the diversion is a worthy one and would help clarify which departments in should receive the existing tax revenues. However, we in rural areas need to that increasing broad funding of MoDOT does not necessarily translate to more for rural transportation needs. Successful passage of constitutional amendment #3 be a good first step in correcting the gas tax diversion. Holding MoDOT™s feet to the fire be the next challenge to help ensure an equitable dispersment of funds for rural and transportation needs.

In addition, we need to understand that revenue replacement by affected state agencies would be new topic for the next budget season. It™s all part of the job of making informed decisions I trust that this information will help you on November 2nd.

If you have any questions about this or any other issue, feel

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