



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

For What Will We Be Remembered?

April 24, 2015



Dear Reader,

The greatest generation – those men and women who fought for our country during World War II and who then invested in America during the great post-war growth period – are slowly but surely receding from the pages of history, as witnessed in the obituaries each day. For them, no personal sacrifice was too much, and we owe them much. They gave their lives on the battle field and then returned home, where many assumed public office and voted to raise the revenues necessary to realize a dream – a great system of interconnected super highways that would push our nation forward

by allowing the efficient transport of commerce and safe travel across the entire continent.

We enjoy prosperity and mobility today because of the sacrifice and investment they made. And how are we treating the legacy they gave to us? That great system is crumbling and we are doing nothing. Worse yet, Missouri, where the very first interstate construction project began, now lags the nation. Rather than building on what has been given to us and advancing our country for our children, we watch it decay.

Recognizing the need, Senator Doug Libla (R-Poplar Bluff) stepped forward to advance a very modest six-cent increase in the state fuel tax over the next three years that, if implemented, would still be well below the national average, but would have at least kept us from losing hundreds of millions of Missouri's federal tax dollars. Senator Libla is a self-made business man who, after succeeding in business, turned to politics as part of a genuine desire to move Missouri forward. He is a champion for smaller government and less regulation, but he understands that we must invest in transportation and that every dollar raised by increasing the fuel tax goes directly to roads and bridges for the benefit of all Missourians.

When some claimed that his six-cent plan might possibly violate constitutional limits on the money the General Assembly could raise, he backed it down to two cents in order to avoid possible

argument or delay. But the threat of filibuster is being used to keep Senate Bill 540 from coming up for a vote. Make your voices known. There are only 14 legislative days left. Senate Bill 540, if passed by the Senate, still must go to the House of Representatives.

How will our generation be known? Will we be known as the "do-nothing generation?" Let's remember what truly patriotic Americans did for all of us and do the same for generations to come.

Let's get going!

Stephen R. Miller
Chairman

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