



THE COMMITTEE OF 100

FYI

February 21, 2014

Infrastructure Investment

Governor Markell made a strong case this week for his proposal to increase Transportation Trust Fund spending by \$100 Million a year for 5 years. Speaking at the February Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, the Governor outlined his reasons for seeking a 10-cent increase in the Motor Fuel Tax and borrowing an additional \$50 Million a year for 5 years for transportation capital projects. The Committee of 100 strongly supports additional infrastructure spending and has endorsed the need for new revenue for the Transportation Trust Fund, including a gas tax increase. The Motor Fuel Tax has not been raised since 1995, while in that same period the purchasing power of each transportation dollar has fallen to 65-cents and the Consumer Price Index has risen 51%. That is not a viable business model.

The 10-cent increase would cost the average motorist \$4.78 a month - \$57 a year. If Delaware's road network is allowed to deteriorate further, the expense of repairing front-end damage or replacing tires will dwarf that figure for consumers, as we are already seeing with potholes sprouting statewide. More importantly, if we fail to invest in our infrastructure, Delaware's economic competitiveness will decline relative to our regional neighbors. Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have all adopted multi-billion dollar infrastructure programs - including tax increases - in the past 18 months. We will not be attractive to new business if our transportation system is seen as inferior.

Delaware is already behind and even though this is an election year, we simply cannot afford to postpone action. We believe the Governor has proposed a balanced, fiscally prudent, and straightforward plan that will put people to work and begin to restore the Transportation Trust Fund to health. We recognize that there may be other ways to reach the same goal and The Committee of 100 stands ready to work with the Governor and legislators from both parties to reach a solution. But we must act now. The state of our economy and the condition of our transportation system demands it.

Cordially,

Paul H. Morrill, Jr.
Executive Director

How Can You Help?

If you would like to support the effort to adequately fund our transportation system, the best thing you can do is call and/or email your own legislators – Representative and Senator. If you don't know them or if you need their contact information, here's a link to the General Assembly website. Just type in your home address. You can also contact the legislators where your business is located and let them know that good transportation is important to you and your employees. Encourage any of your employees who would be willing to help to contact their legislators as well.

http://legis.delaware.gov/legislature.nsf/Lookup/Know_Your_Legislators?open&nav=leginfo

Second, send a letter to the editor at the News Journal and/or your local community newspaper and let them know how you feel. As a reminder of the reasons we support the program, here is a link to the state website that has the PowerPoint the Governor used on Tuesday and also a video of the presentation at his news conference when he announced the program. <http://deldot.gov>

Third, there are a couple events coming up where you can show your support in person. The Bond Bill Committee meets to consider transportation issues at Legislative Hall in Dover on Monday, March 3 at 1:30pm. The Joint Finance Committee hearing on DelDOT's budget is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at Noon. That is a legislative day, so it would also present an opportunity for you to speak to your own legislators as well. Feel free to contact The Committee of 100 office if you plan to attend and need directions or other assistance. Again, if any of your employees or acquaintances can come too, that would be great. The larger the crowd the better; make no mistake, legislators notice when citizens show up to express their views.

Finally, the coalition of business groups and labor that The Committee of 100 has been working with on infrastructure spending is looking to raise funds to help get the message out. The Consulting Engineers are coordinating that communication effort. If you would be willing to contribute, make your check payable to ACEC Delaware PAC and mail to PO Box 1858, Dover, DE 19901.

AstraZeneca to host Energy Efficiency Roundtable on March 21

AstraZeneca is hosting the first quarter meeting of the Delaware Energy & Sustainability Leaders Roundtable on March 21st starting at 9:30 am. Shaun Walsh has extended an invitation to any member of The Committee of 100 who is interested in energy efficiency and sustainable business practices to attend. AstraZeneca will make presentations on the energy management/efficiency activities at the Wilmington site.

Reservations are required and seating is limited. To sign up, please email the Roundtable's facilitator, Andrea Kreiner, at akreiner@verizon.net no later than March 12. Let her know the name of the person attending and the company. Lunch will be provided by AstraZeneca.

The Energy & Sustainability Roundtable is a member-based forum where the business and development community meet quarterly to exchange information on their efforts to reduce their environmental and/or carbon footprints. Meetings rotate among the members' facilities and practical knowledge is conveyed by invited speakers and through sharing case studies of energy reduction practices already implemented
