



P.O. Box 111, Duluth, MN 55801

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Memo

To: Minnesota House of Representative Candidates
From: Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation
Re: Gas Tax Legislative Candidate Survey
Date: September 22, 2008

Dear Minnesota House of Representatives Candidate,

Since 1994 over \$188 million dollars in gas-tax revenue has been diverted from repair and maintenance of our state's roads and bridges to promote motorized recreation. The recent increase in state gas tax will increase diversions to ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, four-wheel drive trucks, snowmobiles and motorboats to ~ \$42 million/biennium. Gas tax diversions to motorized recreation reduce funds available for needed road and bridge maintenance and repairs and generate a host of unwanted effects on our environment and quality of life. (See "Gas Tax Facts" below.)

Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation is surveying legislative candidates to encourage timely discussion and debate about these urgent problems facing Minnesota. MRR's mission is to protect our communities and natural areas from the unwanted effects of motorized recreation. Survey information will be published on our website and in the media and other communications.

We thank you in advance for reviewing facts below and on our website and for responding to the enclosed survey. Please fax completed survey to MRR by October 3. Fax # 218-727-1161.

Gas Tax Facts

- **\$188 million in gas tax revenue has been diverted from roads and bridges to promote motorized recreation since 1994.** (Minnesota Dept. of Revenue, Petroleum Division.)
- **Minnesota's Constitution dedicates 100% of gas-tax revenue "solely for highway purposes".** (Minnesota Constitution, Sec. 5.: Highway User Tax Distribution Fund.)
- **Though non-paying users of Minnesota's right-of-ways; snowmobiles, ATVs and dirt-bike motorcycles legally use and are damaging right-of-ways.** (Minnesota DNR Regulations; MRR Photos.)
- **Off-road vehicles produce a disproportionate amount of unwanted greenhouse gasses. The state of Minnesota has made a commitment to reduce green house gases.** (*Global Warming Effects of Off-road Vehicles*, MRR; Next Generation Energy Act of 2007.)
- **Trespass, conflicts of interest, bulldozing of wetlands and misuse of funds are common among gas tax funded motorized recreation clubs and their local government fiscal agents.** (2003 Legislative Audit; State Auditor Investigation of Voyageur Trail Society; MRR Audit of St. Louis Co.)

View above data and learn more about gas-tax diversions to motorized recreation:

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Legislative Candidate Survey: Gas-Tax Funding of Motorized Recreation

Minnesota House of Representative Candidates:

September 22, 2008

Please respond to each of the following statements by circling a response indicating that you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree. Please fax your completed survey by October 3. Fax # 218-727-1161.

1. Gas-tax funded motorized recreation clubs that violate program requirements or federal, state or local regulations should experience a reduction in future grants. Repeat violations should result in termination of funding.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2. Local government fiscal agents that disburse public funds to motorized recreation clubs should take a portion of that funding to insure that clubs and motorized recreation routes meet all program requirements and federal, state and local regulations for which the fiscal agent is responsible.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3. Use of motorized recreation license and registration fees should be prioritized to mitigate the unwanted effects of ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, four-wheel drive trucks, snowmobiles and motorboats.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. Minnesota should conduct a study, like that done in Maine, to determine what proportion of greenhouse gases generated in our state are produced by snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles and motorboats.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
5. The Minnesota legislature should end diversions of gas-tax funds (\$188 million since 1994) to motorized recreation and use these funds for the repair and maintenance of Minnesota's roads and bridges.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

www.MnResponsibleRec.org: Gas Tax Facts and Survey Information

Please attach or share below other thoughts you might have regarding gas-tax funding of motorized recreation.

Candidate Signature: _____

Leg. Dist.: _____

Date: _____

Please fax completed survey by October 3, Fax # 218-727-1161
or mail to MRR, P.O. Box 111, Duluth, MN 55801