Dear ...:

I appreciate your communication with reference to financing the Federal Highway Program.

No one can ever find satisfaction or happiness in imposing additional taxes upon our people. The problem in every case is one of alternatives and it appears to me that if this highway program is to be carried forward without undue difficulties in the years ahead there must be adequate revenue for that purpose.

We could divert from the general revenues and plow a huge hole in the federal budget. On the other hand, there could be a stretch-out plus the assessment of a larger share upon the states. Even these alternatives are not happy ones, and it appears to me that the gas tax increase, administratively and otherwise, is the best way to keep this program on a reasonable timetable.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen