



Dear Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Ronnie Najarro and I am the State Director Americans for Prosperity in Nevada. On behalf of our numerous activists throughout the state, we urge you to vote “NO” on AB530, which seeks to remove the requirement that motor vehicle fuel taxes be approved by voters and instead be approved with a 2/3 vote by their local board in counties with populations of 700,000 or more, specifically targeting Clark County. While we understand that the legislation aims to streamline the process for implementing tax increases, we firmly believe that allowing annual increases in these taxes without requiring voter approval undermines the principles of democratic accountability and places an unfair financial burden on the residents of Clark County.

At the heart of our opposition is the provision in Section 1 subsection 5, that seeks to allow the board of county commissioners to continue imposing annual fuel tax increases without voter approval, as long as a two-thirds majority of the board adopts an ordinance by December 31, 2026. This provision essentially bypasses the will of the people, who should have the right to directly influence such significant tax changes. Fuel taxes are a critical source of revenue for infrastructure projects, but they are also a significant financial burden on working families, commuters, and businesses. Allowing county commissioners to unilaterally increase these taxes year after year without input from voters is an undemocratic approach that strips residents of their ability to have a say in the tax policies that directly affect their daily lives and finances.

While the bill proposes a system of oversight by the county commissioners, it is important to recognize that elected officials may not always reflect the interests or concerns of the community when it comes to tax increases. Residents should have the right to voice their opinions through the ballot box, particularly when the proposed taxes can directly impact their cost of living, driving habits, and overall financial wellbeing. The idea that the county board can unilaterally impose increases for nearly a decade, without offering the electorate a chance to approve or disapprove, is an erosion of the public’s trust and participation in local governance.

Another concern with this bill is that it allows the continuation of tax increases even if there are outstanding bonds for which revenue is pledged. While bonds are an essential tool for funding infrastructure, using them as an excuse to avoid voter approval for tax increases for an extended period creates a situation where financial obligations are imposed without adequate scrutiny from the people who are responsible for paying them. Taxpayers deserve the ability to evaluate whether these increases are necessary and sustainable, especially when the purpose of the tax increases—highway and street construction—is a matter of public interest and concern.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject AB530, tax increases that affect the daily lives of working families and businesses must be subject to the approval of the voters who will be directly impacted. Let us prioritize fiscal responsibility, transparency, and public participation in decision-making as we continue to work towards a sustainable and effective infrastructure funding system for Nevada.

Sincerely, 

Ronnie Najarro

State Director