



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, March 05, 2009

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Atsalis says “No!” to proposed Gas Tax

Leaving little mystery as to where he will come down on the issue of Governor Patrick’s proposed nineteen cent per gallon (of gas) tax increase, **State Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis**; Barnstable Second District said he simple cannot support such a tax. Atsalis stated that “**this is the wrong time** to levy such a broad and wide ranging tax”. He continued, “**this new gas tax will be passed on down the economic food chain to each and every consumer item**, it will place more pressure on the average family budget and **hit hardest those most in need**”. Atsalis commended the Governor for putting a plan on the table saying, “until he does, we can’t get to the crux of the issue nor have any meaningful debate”.

Atsalis admits the state very well may need to find new revenue streams but said “we must first look to more Government reform and restructuring to show that we can **save more before** we add new taxes”. **Atsalis** was quick to point out that the “**Cape has traditionally been a financial donor region** to the state and **never gets back proportionally** in revenues what we give”.

Regarding **toll increases on state roads** “any increases on toll roads should be more moderate than proposed with **any amount being borne by those who use the roads**. Adding, “and if we indeed bring new taxes to the table we need to ensure they are **local option friendly** with those monies staying in local control. They should not be vulcanized for perpetuity and must have legislative structure with a **sunset clause** or require legislative renewal so that eventually they **go away and in time, they should**”.

Atsalis concluded by saying “we didn’t get into this mess overnight and clearly we need to **get through a few more budgets in order to see light at the end of the economic tunnel** but how we navigate this and with what tools we implore makes all the difference in the world”.