



May 12, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer,

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) writes to express strong opposition to recent legislative efforts to suspend the federal gas tax. Pausing the gas tax would have detrimental effects on federal transportation programs without guaranteeing savings for Americans. We urge you to reject these well-intended but ill-advised proposals.

The more than 160,000 civil engineering professionals who make up ASCE's membership are acutely aware of federal infrastructure programs and the funding mechanisms that support them. Key among these revenue sources is the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which supports critical transportation programs. Suspending the gas tax – even for a fixed amount of time – would deal a serious blow to the HTF, which is already unstable.

The purchasing power of the HTF has lagged for decades. The federal motor fuel tax rate of 18.4 cents per gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel has not been raised since 1993. The growth in construction costs and the fuel efficiency of vehicles has caused the purchasing power of the federal gas tax to decline 80% since 1993. Baseline projections issued by the Congressional Budget Office in February indicate the Mass Transit Account of the HTF will run out of money in mid-2027, and the Highway Account will do the same in 2028, unless Congress addresses the issue. Any suspension of the tax could accelerate that timeline and make it more difficult for Congress to enact a surface transportation reauthorization bill before programs expire September 30th.

ASCE knows fuel prices are high and we recognize a gas tax suspension might sound enticing for Americans whose pocketbooks are strained. However, pausing the gas tax would not guarantee savings for families. A variety of factors, such as supply and demand, affect the prices people see when they pull up to a fuel station.

Pausing the gas tax would set an irresponsible precedent indicating gas taxes should not be collected when fuel prices are high. Additionally, undoing a gas tax suspension would be difficult and unpopular if one is enacted, especially if fuel prices have not come down, further threatening the largest source of revenue for the HTF.

ASCE urges you to oppose any bill to pause the federal gas tax and protect Congress's ability to fund transportation infrastructure programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline Sevier
Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives