



Allred: Give Idaho families a break

Proposes cut in Idaho gas tax

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August 2 – Today Keith Allred, candidate for Idaho governor, said Idaho families and small businesses need a break. So Allred has proposed that Idaho reduce its per-gallon gas tax by 3 cents per gallon.

Idaho's 25-cent gas tax is higher than the national average. Allred's proposal would bring Idaho in line with other states, and give a much-needed boost to Idaho families and small businesses who are struggling to climb out of a tough economy.

"Times are tough and Idaho families need a break," Allred said today.

The proposal stems from a study made public last week that showed, as others have before it, that Idaho car and pickup drivers are overpaying for their share of wear and tear on Idaho highways. By contrast, Idaho's heavy trucking industry is underpaying its share of wear and tear.

Allred's proposal is in stark contrast to one proposed by Butch Otter, who in 2009 tried to force a 10 cent per gallon tax hike onto Idaho families. Keith Allred led the fight against that tax hike as well as the registration fee hike that Otter pushed. Otter's proposal would have raised registration fees on heavy trucks by a mere 5 percent.

"That's just not fair so I worked to defeat Otter's tax hikes," Allred said. "Otter's tax hikes would make the problem much worse."

Allred's proposal will save Idaho car and pickup drivers \$19 million. To make sure that Idaho's roads are fairly paid for, Allred is asking heavy trucking companies to contribute their fair share to Idaho's road maintenance backlog.

"Idaho families can't afford to subsidize the heavy trucking industry in times like these," Allred said. "We need a governor who works for Idaho families, not his political contributors. My gas tax cut is an important step in providing relief and fairness for Idaho families."