



April 5, 2017

Dear Representative,

Missourians deserve a real dialogue on the future of transportation funding in our state.

Toll roads are not a solution. That is why we have started **A Better Road Forward** – an advocacy group comprised of concerned citizens, small businesses, organizations, and communities who are committed to finding viable solutions to solve Missouri’s transportation crisis.

Since 1924 Missourians have paid a motor fuel tax to construct and maintain our roads. Today, unelected bureaucrats at MoDOT are trying to convince *you* we need two taxes for our roads: a fuel tax, *and* a toll tax forced on Missourians through a public-private partnership (PPP). Legislation currently filed would enable the establishment of a PPP to control a toll road on I-70. In reality this is another old scheme and misguided attempt to unfairly burden Missourians, with high risk and a potentially devastating impact on Missouri families and small businesses.

PPPs are often long-term contracts (sometimes up to 99 years) between private partners and government entities to operate public assets, most often in the form of toll roads. The majority of these lease agreements in other states are with foreign companies who have spent millions of dollars advocating for them. Initial plans to toll I-70 could one day lead to a network of toll roads throughout our state. Missouri should not cede ownership of our most important public assets.

Many other states including Indiana, Texas, Virginia, and California have suffered significant structural failures with PPPs, including; amassing additional debt through lease resale, issuing higher tolls after over-inflation of traffic volume estimates, and are often lacking the most basic taxpayer protections. PPPs have also resulted in multiple bankruptcies throughout the country, recklessly placing taxpayers on the hook for billions in debt.

Each day thousands of Missouri families and business owners in the I-70 corridor make tough decisions. Members of **A Better Road Forward** have created jobs and met a payroll, and understand better than most how government can impede business growth and job creation. We believe it is simply not fair, nor equitable, for residents and small businesses in the I-70 corridor to incur virtually the entire cost of rebuilding I-70 through tolling, which would then enable MoDOT to transfer existing I-70 funds to other roads.

MoDOT is asking you to bypass the voice of Missourians and forgo any potential public vote on this measure. We believe providing sole authority (without any legislative oversight) to unelected bureaucrats over the terms of such a measure is a dangerous precedent. We believe a

better solution is needed; one which does not roll out the welcome mat for foreign-owned companies to toll our interstates by double taxing hard-working Missourians.

Regardless of the legislative outcome, **A Better Road Forward is moving ahead with a ballot initiative for 2018 to ban any future toll road in Missouri.** Our goal is simple: to ban double taxation and preserve the freedom of our roadways for current and future generations of hard-working Missouri taxpayers. For more information on our effort, please visit [BetterRoadMO.com](http://BetterRoadMO.com).

We hope we can count on you to join our cause.

Respectfully,

**A Better Road Forward  
Executive Committee**



**Wayne Baker**  
Chairman  
A Better Road Forward



**Jim Ledbetter**  
Member



**Wendy Nordwald**  
Member



**Dan Robb**  
Member



**Mark Stephens**  
Member



**Steven Deves**  
Member



**Brent Speight**  
Member