

Name _____ Date _____

Paying for Road Repairs

Scenario 3

State Senator Carole Green is concerned about the condition of roads in her sparsely populated state. A major highway that connects the eastern and western United States runs through the state. Federal funding for this highway has been cut, and the high volume of traffic has increased the need for expensive road repairs. The state collects money to pay for these repairs through an excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel bought in the state.

Carlos, a major contributor to Senator Green's election campaign, is in favor of the excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel. He feels that this method of collecting money is more equitable because it makes the people who use the roads responsible for the repairs. Carlos, however, does little traveling across the state.

Ron is a truck driver who feels that the excise tax unfairly targets the transportation industry. He believes that the gasoline and diesel fuel tax penalizes those who transport goods by road, because they purchase more fuel.

Items for Consideration

1. What is the major issue in this case?
2. Why is Senator Green concerned about the situation?
3. Is the excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for repairs fair? Why or why not?
4. Why is Carlos in favor of the excise tax?
5. What would you do if you were Senator Green? Why?
6. What should Ron and other truck drivers do to try to change the current method of raising money to repair roads?

