

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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For Immediate Release

**JOINT STATEMENT BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE
AND HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH
ON THE CLINTON GAS TAX REPEAL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 30, 1996) -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich today issued the following statement on what Congress will be doing to repeal the Clinton Gas Tax:

“In 1993 President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress pushed through the largest tax increase in the nation’s history -- a whopping \$265 billion. Not one Republican cast a vote in support of the tax measure. Tucked into the 1993 Clinton tax increase was a hike in the gas tax totaling 4.3 cents per gallon -- costing American taxpayers \$4.8 billion a year. President Clinton said the tax increase was meant to hit ‘rich’ Americans; following this logic, everyone who puts gas in their car must be ‘rich!’ Further, President Clinton’s tax increase is also the only portion of the gasoline tax that does not go toward maintaining our nation’s highways, roads and bridges.

We believe American taxpayers are already taxed too much. Republicans are hopeful that President Clinton and his Democrat colleagues in the Congress will join with us in supporting an immediate repeal of the 4.3 cent gas tax hike. With gas prices at their highest level since the Persian Gulf War, Congress plans to vote on repealing the Clinton gas tax by Memorial Day weekend, traditionally one of the more heavily-traveled weekends. The repeal would be effective to January 1, 1997. In the meantime, Congress will address long- term repeal in the context of the budget debate.

Repeal of the Clinton gas tax hike is the least we can do for hard working Americans whose pocketbooks are taking a major hit at the gas pump.”