



To: budget@fstb.gov.hk  
cc:  
Subject: opinion for budgeting

2007/01/27 04:30 PM

- Urgent  
 Return Receipt

Dear Secretary,

I am an office worker in the IT industry. I take public transports to work and return everyday. Traffic jam is part of my daily life but it does not bother me so much because I just need to get up earlier. At the same time, the air pollution from cars is almost unbearable especially when I am stuck in a mini-bus in the middle of traffic jam. Even with the windows closed, the air is still choking and I always wonder how much damage this is doing to my health.

It really annoys me when I see private cars with only the drivers in onboard. Unless they are living so remote that public transport is not a practical option, these people are so selfish and ignorant that they only know their own comfort in the cost of others' well-being.

I think a robust taxation measure should be in place to discourage private car usage whenever and wherever public transport is available.

For example, 50% tax rise on private car fuel. Part of the extra tax income should be spent on tax discount to public transport businesses so that a larger population will benefit from lower fares and better public transport facilities. The improved public transport services will in turn encourage private car owners to adopt the greener way.

Any remaining tax income should be used on a sustainable implementation of environmental policies. In the long run, the earlier and the harder we work to improve our environment today, the smaller medical bill the government (and HK people) will have to pay especially with the aging population. Afterall, what goes around, it comes around. Better to change our habits and live healthily and economically than to put a blind-eye on the problem and suffer because of the comfort of a small group of people.

Yours sincerely,  
Lawrence Law