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*January 19, 2015*

Melissa Francis  
Host, Money with Melissa Francis  
Fox Business News  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Ms. Francis:

During last Friday's (January 16, 2015) show, you erroneously reported that federal gas taxes can be used to finance the construction of museums and other non-transportation projects. This error is significant because it incorrectly leaves your viewers with the impression that some portion of the federal gas taxes they pay today are being wasted on projects that do nothing to improve the safety and reliability of their commutes when in fact the opposite is true.

The example you cited to justify this false claim was the recent groundbreaking for the Michael Haydon Transportation Museum in Lexington, Kentucky. However, as was widely reported at the time of the museum's groundbreaking, the source of federal funding for that project was the Transportation Enhancements program. This federal program was eliminated in 2012 when Congress enacted a series of transportation reforms backed by advocacy groups like ours. In other words, the funding for this facility was appropriated by Congress before museums became ineligible for federal transportation funding in 2012.

We understand that you and some of your Fox Business News colleagues have taken a strong stance in opposition to the many Democrat and Republican officials who have suggested increasing the federal gas tax to bring our aging roads and bridges back into a state of good, and safe, repair. Yet as a journalist, you must understand the need to rely on accurate information while reporting and providing on-air commentary.

Leaving aside the question of how, or why, you and your research team could have gotten this story wrong; we expect you will provide an on-air correction now that you are aware of your error. Figuring out the best way to finance needed repairs to our roads and bridges is an important public policy debate. The last thing any of us would want is for that debate to be inappropriately influenced by your erroneous reporting. That is also why we will alert the media to your show's incorrect reporting by distributing the enclosed news release.

Sincerely,

-signed-

Brian Turmail  
Senior Executive Director of Public Affairs