On Wednesday, Feb. 17, House Transportation Committee Chair Charles Busby (R-Pascagoula) said he believes it is time to act, and he will look at raising the gas tax for road and bridge funding. Chair Busby said that he will come forward with a proposal in the next two weeks addressing this issue. In addition, various House and Senate lawmakers also believe the time is right to consider a gas tax hike or other methods to pay for state road and bridge improvements with the current low gas prices.

**Committee Action on Legislative Measures Increases this Week**

**HB 1421**: Increases per diem compensation for state offices and employees, and county and municipal governing bodies from $40 to $150. *(Passed House)*

**HB 1202**: Clarifies counties’ authority to collect fees for rubbish and garbage disposal. *(Passed House County Affairs Committee)*

**HB 1506**: Authorizes counties and cities to extend contracts for collection and transport of solid wastes for counties and cities for four years without re-bid. *(Passed House County Affairs Committee)*

**Legislature reconvenes Monday, February 22.**

**MAS Weekly Grassroots Initiative**

PDD Capitol visits continue next week with the Central PDD on Tuesday, February 23 and North Central PDD on Wednesday, February 24. Supervisors will meet MAS staff on the first floor of the Capitol by 9:00 a.m. to receive handouts/talking points. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Identify committee meetings you would like to attend.** If there are issues discussed that will impact your county, find your legislator after the meeting and inform them of your concern.
- **Invite your legislative delegation to the MAS office for lunch.** MAS will provide a legislative briefing during lunch.
- **Remember to go into the gallery to be recognized by either the Senate or House Chamber, or both.**