* Gasoline has been the primary source of fuel in the US since the industrial revolution
* Michael Carolan believes that ethanol would have challenged gasoline as the primary fuel source in the U.S. had it not been for a few external factors
* One factor Carolan particularly harps on is the introduction of a “sin tax” to denatured alcohol which charged an extra $2.08 per gallon of alcohol
* He states that over 13 million gallons of alcohol were produced in 1860, so in just one year, there were over 25 million tax dollars associated with alcohol so you can see how this would be a significant deterrent of a fuel source
* Carolan believes that without this sin tax, ethanol may have been a better source of fuel than gasoline because it is less toxic and equally affordable without the sin tax.