

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
CERTIFICATION OF COMPRESSED NATURAL
GAS VEHICLES**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jack R. Draxler

Senate Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to take regulatory steps for encouraging the use of natural gas and encourages public and private partnerships to increase the states' refueling infrastructure.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ strongly urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promptly revise and streamline the certification requirements applicable to small volume manufacturers;
- ▶ urges the EPA to waive requirements for recertifying conversion kits under certain circumstances;
- ▶ urges the EPA to permit small vehicle manufacturers to include vehicles and engines in a single engine category;
- ▶ urges the EPA to provide additional guidance to small volume manufacturers regarding the conversion of older vehicle models;
- ▶ urges the EPA to institute a natural gas vehicle research, development, and demonstration funding program; and
- ▶ encourages the formation of public and private partnerships to increase the states'



refueling infrastructure.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Utah is fortunate to have an abundant supply of natural gas;

WHEREAS, every gallon equivalent of natural gas used by vehicles is one less gallon of petroleum that has to be imported;

WHEREAS, natural gas is the cleanest burning alternative transportation fuel commercially available today;

WHEREAS, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy has rated the natural gas powered Honda Civic GX as "America's Greenest Car" for the past five consecutive years;

WHEREAS, the Honda Civic GX is greener than any available hybrid;

WHEREAS, the largest hurdle facing the natural gas vehicle industry is the lack of refueling stations available to the public;

WHEREAS, public and private partnerships could greatly increase the states' refueling infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rules governing the manufacture, sale, and installation of alternative fuel engine conversion systems;

WHEREAS, for a vehicle conversion from petroleum to natural gas to be legal, the aftermarket kit must be designed for the specific vehicle's engine;

WHEREAS, each engine-specific conversion kit must undergo EPA-specified testing to ensure it meets emission standards and, upon passing, receive a Certificate of Conformity;

WHEREAS, the EPA should revise and streamline the certification requirements applicable to small volume manufacturers;

WHEREAS, the EPA should waive requirements for recertifying conversion kits if the kit has been previously certified for the model of vehicle to be converted and neither the kit nor the design and specifications of the model of vehicle to be converted have substantially changed;

WHEREAS, the EPA should also permit small vehicle manufacturers to include

vehicles and engines in a single engine category to improve the cost efficiency of emission testing of converted vehicles and provide additional guidance to small volume manufacturers regarding the conversion of older vehicle models;

WHEREAS, the EPA should continue a natural gas vehicle research, development, and demonstration funding program within its existing budget and personnel levels to help improve and develop natural gas usage by engines and vehicles;

WHEREAS, the program could assist manufacturers in emissions certification, develop and improve nationally recognized safety codes and standards, and examine and improve the reliability and efficiency of natural gas fueling station infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, by taking these steps, the EPA would allow industry and the public to more quickly decrease the nation's dependency on imported petroleum:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, strongly urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to act promptly and decisively in revising and streamlining the certification requirements applicable to small volume manufacturers and waiving requirements for recertifying conversion kits if the kit has been previously certified for the model of vehicle to be converted and neither the kit nor the design and specifications of the model of vehicle to be converted have substantially changed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the EPA to permit small vehicle manufacturers to include vehicles and engines in a single engine category and provide additional guidance to small volume manufacturers regarding the conversion of older vehicle models.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the EPA to continue a natural gas vehicle research, development, and demonstration funding program within its existing budget and personnel levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the formation of public and private partnerships to increase the states' refueling infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the EPA and to all members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-22-08 1:01 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note**H.C.R. 1 - Concurrent Resolution on Certification of Compressed Natural
Gas Vehicles**

2009 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.
