



March 28, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman, House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee

Re: Maintaining Funding for DOE Deployment of Alternative Fuels and Vehicles

Dear Chairman Feinstein, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national organization that brings the nation's nearly 100 *Clean Cities* coalitions and their 18,000 stakeholders together with the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

We are writing to request your support to ensure that adequate funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Cities alternative fuels deployment program is included in the FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. By advancing markets for alternative fuels and vehicles, the Clean Cities program is helping to stabilize gasoline prices, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and create American jobs.

Specifically, we are asking you to include the following report language in the Vehicle Technologies section of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account in the FY 2015 Energy and Water appropriations bill:

Within available funds, the Committee directs the Department to allocate \$50 million to the Clean Cities program for alternative fuel deployment activities, including \$25 million in competitive grants that support innovative alternative fuel and vehicle deployment strategies.

As you know, gas prices in America remain extremely volatile and we continue to send more than *\$1 billion a day* to OPEC and other foreign countries for oil. Meanwhile, China and other nations threaten to beat out the United States for leadership of the global alternative fuels market as we continue our struggle for economic recovery. More than 70 percent of the oil we import is used as our primary transportation fuel – as gasoline for our national fleet of 250 million cars and light trucks, or as diesel fuel for our 8 million heavy-duty trucks.

The DOE Clean Cities Program is the agency's only initiative focused on the deployment of alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure. Federal funding through the DOE has leveraged billions in private investment and unleashed American ingenuity and innovation to enable

Helping Clean Cities coalitions, and working toward American energy independence since 1999.

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vehicles using electricity, natural gas, propane, biodiesel, ethanol, and hydrogen to take hold in the market place. Since 1993, the nation's Clean Cities nearly 100 coalitions and their 18,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local deployment programs and projects that have reduced petroleum consumption by more than 5 billion gallons. The Clean Cities program is currently on track to decrease petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons a year by 2020.

According to DOE annual reports, from 2006 through 2012, the Clean Cities program leveraged \$133 million in program funding into another \$1.7 billion in public and private investment in alternative fuels deployment projects. Every dollar in the Clean Cities budget leverages \$12.80 in additional funds to advance alternative fuels. These funds were used to deploy a diverse array of petroleum reducing fuels, vehicles and refueling stations that were based on specific state and local transportation needs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are now more than 1.2 million alternative fuel vehicles on the road in the United States and nearly 29,000 alternative fueling stations.

In addition to enhancing our energy security, the alternative fuels industry is also critical to the revitalization of our economy. According to a study by IHS Global Insight, natural gas contributed \$385 billion to our nation's economy in 2008 and supported more than 2.8 million American jobs. The natural gas industry estimates that, with continued federal support, more than 1 million direct and indirect domestic jobs can be created through businesses that manufacture vehicles, construct fueling stations, and produce fuel. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, 200 ethanol bio-refineries throughout the nation are helping to employ more than 400,000 Americans, largely in and around rural communities. A recent economic study prepared for the National Biodiesel Board shows that the biodiesel industry supported more than 64,000 jobs across the country in 2012.

Again, we urge you to include report language in the FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which would ensure adequate funding for the deployment of alternative fuels and vehicles through the DOE Clean Cities program. Now is the time for Congress to maintain critical investment in the deployment of clean, domestically produced fuels and vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have questions or want more information concerning this request.

Sincerely,



Sam Spofforth
President

Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) is a national, non-profit policy and education organization that brings *Clean Cities* coalition leaders together with the clean transportation industry to advance policies that will reduce American dependence on petroleum-based fuels. Since 1993, the nearly 100 *Clean Cities* coalitions and their 18,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local programs and projects to deploy alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure that has reduced petroleum consumption by more than 5 billion gallons.