



February 13, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, 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 FY 2018 and 2019 Funding for DOE Deployment of Alternative Fuels and Vehicles**

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

On behalf of the nation's 90 Clean Cities coalitions and their 15,000 stakeholders in the clean transportation industry, Transportation Energy Partners (TEP) thanks you for your ongoing support of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Cities alternative fuels deployment program. 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.

As the House and Senate appropriations committees move to finalize the FY 2018 appropriations legislation and begin consideration of the FY 2019 bills, we ask you to include the following report language in the Vehicle Technologies section of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account in the FY 2018 and FY 2019 Energy and Water appropriations bills:

*Within available funds, the Committee recommends \$52,500,000 for Outreach, Deployment and Analysis. Within this amount, \$50,000,000 is provided for Deployment through the Clean Cities Program, including \$30 million for competitive grants to support alternative fuel, infrastructure, and vehicle deployment activities. When issuing competitive grants, the Department is encouraged to focus on awards that range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each and include at least one Clean Cities coalition partner. The Department is encouraged to ensure balance in the award of funds to achieve varied aims in fostering broader adoption of clean vehicles and installation of supporting infrastructure.*

As you know, gas prices in America remain extremely volatile and we continue to send more than \$135 billion a year 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. More than 70 percent of the oil we import is used as our primary transportation fuel – as gasoline for our national fleet of 270 million vehicles.

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 vehicles using electricity, natural gas, propane, biodiesel, ethanol, and hydrogen to take hold in the market place. Since 1993, the nation's Clean Cities coalitions and their 15,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local deployment programs and projects that have reduced petroleum consumption by more than 9.5 billion gallons. The Clean Cities program is currently on track to decrease petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons a year by 2020.

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

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According to DOE annual reports from 2006 through 2015, the Clean Cities program leveraged \$207.3 million in program funding into another \$2.2 billion in public and private investment in alternative fuels deployment projects – that is \$10.60 for every federal dollar invested. 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 1.5 million alternative fuel vehicles on the road in the United States and nearly 55,000 alternative fueling stations.

In addition to enhancing our energy security, the clean transportation industry is also critical to our economic growth and global competitiveness.

- There are 765,000 plug-in electric vehicles on the road. The global market for lithium ion batteries will grow from \$3.2 billion in 2013 to \$24.1 billion in 2023 and annual revenue from the infrastructure charging sector is projected to grow to \$5.8 billion by 2022.
- The ethanol industry contributes about \$42 billion a year to our nation's economy, including nearly 340,000 American jobs.
- Biodiesel has grown into a 2-billion-gallon per year industry with 125 plants across the country supporting more than 64,000 jobs and providing \$11.42 billion in economic impact.
- There are about 200,000 propane-powered vehicles on America's roads, and a fleet of more than 12,000 propane-powered school buses is used to transport more than 700,000 children to school each day. The propane industry contributed \$46.2 billion to U.S. gross domestic product and employed 53,964 domestic workers in 2015.
- The U.S. is the number one producer of natural gas in the world, and American businesses and consumers continue to embrace natural gas vehicles. Approximately 155,000 natural gas vehicles operate on America's roads today. These vehicles are supported by 1,800 fueling stations that are connected by 1.5 million miles of natural gas pipelines.

Again, we urge you to include report language in the final version of the FY 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that 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 15,000 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 9.5 billion gallons.

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