

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 9

By: Garrison of the Senate

and

5 Rousset of the House  
6

7  
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution urging the Environmental  
10 Protection Agency (EPA) to streamline its rules for  
11 vehicle natural gas conversion; urging the adoption  
12 of a single engine category; urging further research;  
13 encouraging partnerships to increase natural gas  
14 fueling infrastructure; and directing distribution.

15 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is fortunate to have an abundant supply of  
16 natural gas. Every gallon equivalent of natural gas used by  
17 vehicles is one less gallon of petroleum that has to be imported.  
18 Natural gas is the cleanest burning alternative transportation fuel  
19 commercially available today; and

20 WHEREAS, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy  
21 has rated the natural gas-powered Honda Civic GX as "America's  
22 Greenest Car" for the past five consecutive years. The Honda Civic  
23 GX is greener than any available hybrid; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
has rules governing the manufacture, sale, and installation of

1 alternative fuel engine conversion systems. For a vehicle  
2 conversion from petroleum to natural gas to be legal, the  
3 aftermarket kit must be designed for the specific vehicle's engine;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, each engine-specific natural gas conversion kit must  
6 undergo EPA-specified testing to ensure it meets emission standards  
7 and, upon passing, receive a Certificate of Conformity. The EPA  
8 could revise and streamline the certification requirements  
9 applicable to small volume manufacturers. The EPA could waive  
10 requirements for recertifying conversion kits if the kit has been  
11 previously certified for the model of vehicle to be converted, and  
12 neither the kit nor the design and specifications of the model of  
13 vehicle to be converted have substantially changed; and

14 WHEREAS, the EPA could also permit small vehicles manufacturers  
15 to include vehicles and engines in a single engine category to  
16 improve the cost efficiency of emission testing of converted  
17 vehicles and provide additional guidance to small volume  
18 manufacturers regarding the conversion of older vehicle models to  
19 natural gas; and

20 WHEREAS, the EPA could continue a natural gas vehicle research,  
21 development, and demonstration funding program within its existing  
22 budget and personnel levels to help improve and develop natural gas  
23 usage by engines and vehicles. The program could assist  
24 manufacturers in emissions certification, develop and improve

1 nationally recognized safety codes and standards, and examine and  
2 improve the reliability and efficiency of natural gas fueling  
3 station infrastructure; and

4 WHEREAS, the largest hurdle facing the natural gas vehicle  
5 industry is the lack of refueling stations available to the public.  
6 Public and private partnerships could greatly increase the states'  
7 natural gas refueling infrastructure; and

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

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
12 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
13 CONCURRING THEREIN:

14 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature strongly urges the United  
15 States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to act promptly and  
16 decisively in revising and streamlining the natural gas  
17 certification requirements applicable to small volume manufacturers  
18 and waiving requirements for recertifying natural gas conversion  
19 kits if the kit has been previously certified for the model of  
20 vehicle to be converted, and neither the kit nor the design and  
21 specifications of the model of vehicle to be converted have  
22 substantially changed.

23 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature further urges the EPA to  
24 permit small vehicle manufacturers to include vehicles and engines

1 in a single engine category and provide additional guidance to small  
2 volume manufacturers regarding the conversion of older vehicle  
3 models.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature urges the EPA to continue a  
5 natural gas vehicle research, development, and demonstration funding  
6 program within its existing budget and personnel levels.

7 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages the formation of  
8 public and private partnerships to increase the state's natural gas  
9 refueling infrastructure.

10 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the members of  
11 the Oklahoma Congressional delegation and the Administrator of the  
12 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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