

Alternative Fueled Vehicles Competitiveness and Energy Security Act of 2013

Recent energy legislation, including the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, have instituted a number of programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the need to strengthen our energy security by replacing a significant portion of the oil Americans use for transportation with alternative fuels such as electricity, natural gas, propane, biofuels, and hydrogen. However, these programs currently fail to provide workable solutions for many of the obstacles alternative fuels suppliers and alternative fuel vehicles manufacturers face when attempting to get their technologies to market.

Modifying these existing programs to make them more useful for potential applicants will help our nation exploit our newfound abundant energy resources, target climate change by incentivizing more widespread use of cleaner transportation fuels, and create jobs by catalyzing new businesses in the diverse alternative fuel and alternative fuel vehicles sector. By providing a set of technology-neutral tools to promote the deployment of these technologies, the *Alternative Fueled Vehicles Competitiveness and Energy Security Act of 2013* will:

- Support the deployment of alternative fuel filling stations by allowing fueling infrastructure projects to qualify for the DOE's Section 1703 Loan Program;
- Expand the DOE's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan program beyond just light-duty vehicle manufacturers to include component manufacturers further down the supply chain as well as efficient medium and heavy trucks, buses, and rail transit vehicles;
- Quantify the amount of oil displaced by alternative fuels and assess alternative fuel deployment, deployment potential, and barriers to market entry;
- Provide technical assistance to public-private partnerships as well as state, local, and tribal governments to assist with deployment of alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure (\$50 million per year for FY2014-2018);
- Foster a next-generation workforce by providing grants for workforce training to community colleges and other higher education institutions to develop training programs for manufacturing, maintaining, and installing alternative fuel vehicles and refueling infrastructure (\$50 million per year for FY2014-2018);
- Promote the deployment of alternative fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during long-duration idling in the freight transportation sector through the EPA's SmartWay Program (\$65 million per year for FY2008-2018);
- Require a study to identify barriers to alternative fuel deployment in existing electric, hydrogen, natural gas, and oil transmission and distribution systems;

- Establish an interagency federal coordination council to examine the use of electricity and natural gas in federal vehicle fleets; and
- Extend state authority to allow energy-efficient vehicles in High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes by deleting the current deadline for state action.