

Sample Draft Letter

Name
Address
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative or Senator xx

We are writing to request a significant increase for the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program to support State Energy Program (SEP) grants that will encourage more widespread use of alternative fuel vehicles.

Expanded use of alternative fuels is one of the most promising solutions to our nation's energy security and environmental concerns. With diesel and gasoline prices on the rise, we are reminded that despite the passage of the Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy Act, our nation's dependence on foreign oil continues to increase. Alternative fuels represent the best long-term approach to true energy security. AFVs are also instrumental in helping urban areas address their air quality concerns.

Despite these important advantages, there continue to be a number of critical market barriers impeding the purchase and use of AFVs. The Clean Cities State Energy Program grants directly support AFV purchases at the local level by helping to offset the incremental costs of the vehicles and encouraging infrastructure development. Each year, demand for these grants far exceeds funds available. Each application represents a collaboration of many stakeholders that leverages several times the federal investment in state, local and private resources. An increased appropriation for the Clean Cities program would address the need and commitment that has been demonstrated in so many communities.

Clean Cities is a voluntary federal program designed to accelerate and expand the use of AFVs throughout the country. As of January 2001, 79 communities have joined the program – leveraging the participation and resources of over 3,500 state, local and private industry stakeholders.

Until market demand alone can provide the economies of scale necessary, government investment in the Clean Cities program will remain critical to meeting the well established national policy objectives of energy security and a cleaner environment. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,