

Today's date

The Honorable Bill Thomas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We appreciate your consideration of the policy priorities described below in your conference deliberations. As stakeholders in the _____ Clean Cities coalition, we support an energy policy that will accelerate markets and transform the transportation industry through technology.

During the upcoming conference deliberations, differences between the House and Senate versions of the Energy bill will be addressed. Both the House and Senate Energy Bills contain consumer tax incentives that will assist transportation markets. All major vehicle manufacturers have introduced, or plan to introduce, new technology and alternative fuel vehicles into the marketplace. Consumer based tax credits will encourage consumers to purchase these advanced technology vehicles during early market introduction and establish a basis for sustainable and cost-competitive volumes in the future. New advanced technology vehicles (encompassing alternative fuels, battery electrics, hybrids and fuel cells) offer tremendous promise in addressing national energy security, energy diversity and environmental goals.

We support:

- Inclusion of tax credits for the installation of alternative fuel infrastructure and for the sale of alternative fuels. The House version of the Energy Bill omitted these key infrastructure provisions. Expansion of alternative fuel infrastructure will complement the introduction of alternative fuel vehicles in the short term and assist the transition to a hydrogen future.
- Maintaining strong performance criteria to ensure that consumer tax credits are consistent with public policy goals of energy diversity/security, improved fuel economy and emission performance. Fuel cell vehicles, hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles can offer breakthrough performance in these areas. Performance criteria support the full level of tax credits and guarantee substantial public benefits for every dollar expended.

Our coalition believes in the public policy benefits of passing a credible, balanced package of tax credits for advanced technology vehicles and of supporting infrastructure that delivers energy security and environmental progress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,