

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Help Make Natural Gas the
Vehicle to American Energy Security**
Cosponsor the NAT GAS Act of 2011

Dear Colleague,

As we all know, we are facing an energy crisis in this country, struggling to find a way to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil while promoting cleaner fuels. Everyday Americans, conscious of the environment and our nation's constant demand for energy, pull into fueling stations and find few alternatives from which to choose. As Members of Congress, it is our job to provide real solutions; thus, we must recognize the potential success story that exists in the use of domestic natural gas as a transportation fuel, bridging the gap by keeping our nation moving while the quest for more efficient vehicle power continues. It is this hope that leads us to reintroduce the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions (NAT GAS) Act.

As you probably know, 69% of the oil consumed in America is for transportation, two-thirds of which we import from foreign nations. By contrast, 98% of the natural gas we consume is produced in North America. The U.S. has enough natural gas reserves to last us more than 118 years. By diversifying our vehicle fleets and utilizing natural gas as a transportation fuel, we can significantly reduce U.S. demand for foreign oil-and begin doing that immediately.

Natural gas vehicle (NGV) technology is readily available in Europe, North America, South America and Asia, with over 12 ½ million natural gas vehicles in use worldwide. In fact, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler currently produce a number of models for purchase overseas, yet we have fewer than 150,000 natural gas vehicles here in the United States. Natural gas is more economical than gasoline, produces roughly 95% less overall toxics than gasoline and diesel vehicles, and is abundant enough to provide a reliable source of clean fuel and, more importantly, create jobs right here at home.

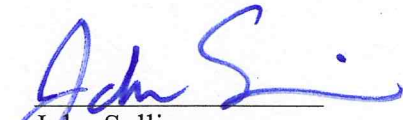
With the NAT GAS Act, we can pave the way for Americans to change how they power their cars by encouraging private investment in natural gas refueling infrastructure and providing incentives for the production and purchasing of NGVs. In order to achieve our goal of energy security, we propose new a new tax credit for auto manufacturers to produce NGVs and maximizing existing tax credits to attract real investments in infrastructure necessary to make these vehicles a marketable, viable option for American families and businesses. We also provide necessary federal regulatory changes to help ensure research, development and deployment of NGV engines and conversions.

The bill places a new focus on an area with the greatest environmental impact – high fuel use fleet vehicles. Replacing one traditionally-fueled garbage truck with a natural gas-powered alternative, for example, has the environmental equivalent of taking 300 gasoline-fueled personal vehicles and their emissions, off the road. All told, these tax and regulatory changes will help add at least 500,000 jobs in the United States.


As Congress debates energy solutions, a myriad of options are offered up. But at the end of the day, these options give American consumers few real choices today. In the near-term, natural gas is the best present-day alternative to imported oil – one that can be put in place virtually overnight with the support of the nation behind it.

Please help launch a new direction in transportation fuel responsibility by cosponsoring the NAT GAS Act. To cosponsor, or for any questions, please contact John Rainbolt in Rep. Sullivan's office at 5-2211 (John.Rainbolt@mail.house.gov), Tom Wharton in Rep. Dan Boren's office at 5-2701 (Thomas.Wharton@mail.house.gov), Kate Lynch-DeAngelis in Rep. John Larson's Office at 5-2265 (Kate.Lynch-DeAngelis@mail.house.gov) or Kimberly Ellis in Rep. Kevin Brady's office at 5-4901 (Kimberly.Ellis@mail.house.gov).


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