

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS SMITH, ADLEY AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to support expansion and use of domestic natural gas and alternative energies, and to urge agencies to operate vehicles using compressed natural gas.

WHEREAS, the United States imports more than sixty-five percent of its petroleum, two-thirds of which is used in the form of gasoline and diesel fuel to power vehicles; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of worldwide petroleum reserves are located in politically volatile countries, making the United States vulnerable to supply disruptions; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an abundance of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, compressed natural gas provides safe, clean, reliable, efficient, and secure energy, and is the alternative fuel most used today for transportation in the United States, with more than two hundred thousand buses, taxis, delivery vehicles, and other fleet vehicles across the nation using compressed natural gas daily; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy indicates that compressed natural gas can be used as a replacement for gasoline in light-duty vehicles and as a replacement for diesel in heavy-duty vehicles; and

WHEREAS, vehicles powered by compressed natural gas discharge far fewer harmful emissions than vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that maintenance costs for vehicles powered by compressed natural gas are lower than for vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently provides, and is expected to increase, incentives for use of alternative fuels and, at the current price of various fuels, any additional costs to purchase vehicles to run on compressed natural gas would be quickly recouped; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the United States imported four billion, three hundred and fifty million barrels of oil, spending roughly two hundred and sixty-five million dollars; and

WHEREAS, eighty-five million barrels of oil were produced daily around the world;
and

WHEREAS, twenty-one million barrels of oil are used daily in the United States; and

WHEREAS, world oil production has been declining since 2005; and

WHEREAS, roughly twenty percent of every barrel of oil imported into the United States is used to fuel the transport of goods around the country by road.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the United States Congress to support expansion and use of domestic natural gas reserves and alternative energies to reduce our reliance on imported oil by supporting H.R. 1835 and S. 1408, which are under consideration by the United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges state and federal agencies to purchase, when possible, vehicles that can be converted to run on compressed natural gas, when it is available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES