

AJC WASHINGTON CHAPTER RESOLUTION ON REDUCING DEMAND FOR OIL

Background

In furtherance of AJC's National Energy Policy Statement, the Washington Chapter encourages its members to save energy at all levels of usage – in the home, at the office, in choosing the fuels we use in our vehicles. The outpouring of dollars for gasoline and other oil products (including approximately \$400 million daily to Iran and Venezuela) is enriching some of the world's most dangerous regimes, causing us as Americans and as Jews to finance brutal anti-American, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel states and terrorist groups with our petrodollars. For this reason, as well as for the negative impact of fossil fuels on global warming, we are morally and fiscally obliged to do everything we can to curb our demand for oil.

There are technical solutions that are available to us today and we must take advantage of them to help reduce our nation's oil use now. One of the things we can do is consider fuel issues when purchasing a car or truck. Full hybrid cars and trucks get maximum fuel savings over their conventionally powered counterparts. Although partial hybrids provide some fuel savings, especially when coupled with a small engine, most partial hybrid models, unfortunately, do not achieve sufficient fuel economy.¹ Diesel motors are 30% more efficient than gasoline and biodiesel made from soy and other vegetable products can be used in limited percentages in any diesel motor, including in cars, trucks, buses and boats. Biodiesel B20, which is a blend of 20% soy-based bio-fuel and 80% petroleum diesel, is increasingly available to the public in the Washington, DC area. Although both ethanol and compressed natural gas require special fuel systems, vehicles that use these fuels, as well as diesel, are available in local showrooms². Many of these unconventionally powered vehicles are comfortable, roomy, highly drivable and useful; thereby retaining the comfort and safety Americans like to have in cars and trucks. At the same time, purchasing such vehicles would help to reduce the demand for imported fuels. Some of these vehicles may currently be more expensive to buy than their conventionally-powered counterparts; however, an increase in sales of unconventionally powered vehicles would encourage manufacturers to produce enough of them to satisfy demand, so that their purchase premium, if any, should disappear.

Reducing our demand for oil and petroleum products, like gasoline and petro-diesel, represents the highest priority for the United States in the field of energy and trade. The Washington Chapter can set an example for AJC members throughout the country. By our actions we can help raise awareness of this crisis, and show that there is a way to put a stop to our country's ever-growing oil demand.

Resolution

Resolved, that in purchasing or leasing new vehicles, the Chapter's Board calls upon all Chapter members to give preferential consideration to acquiring and to acquire, unless clearly not practicable, only (1) unconventionally powered vehicles – full gas-electric hybrids, modern clean diesel-powered vehicles, ethanol-powered (flexible fuel) vehicles, natural gas-powered vehicles (using compressed or liquefied natural gas) or, alternatively, (2) conventionally powered or partial hybrid vehicles with city/highway average fuel economy of 35 mpg or greater.

The Board asks that each member of the Washington Chapter (a) who owns one of these fuel efficient vehicles on February 28, 2007 to provide that information to the Staff for compiling a baseline of current ownership, and (b) who subsequently purchases such a vehicle to so advise the Staff so that the Chapter periodically can publish such information to demonstrate the progress of this effort.

Adopted by the Washington Chapter Board of Directors, February 28, 2007

¹ Full hybrids, such as the Prius, Ford Escape, Mercury Mariner and Toyota Camry, have electric motors that are large enough so that they can move about entirely on electricity. Partial hybrids, such as the Honda Accord and Saturn Vue, have small electric motors that principally boost power for their conventional gasoline engines.

² Ethanol-capable ("flexible-fuel") vehicles are able to operate on E85, i.e., a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline.

NEW 2007 MODEL YEAR CARS AND TRUCKS
THAT QUALIFY WITH THE 2-28-2007 AJC WASHINGTON CHAPTER RESOLUTION

Full Hybrids – easy to detect because the city mileage is better than the highway mileage, although the highway mileage also exceeds conventionally-powered equivalents

- Toyota Prius
- Toyota Camry Hybrid
- Toyota Highlander Hybrid
- Nissan Altima Hybrid
- Lexus LS, GS and RX Hybrids
- Ford Escape Hybrid
- Mercury Mariner Hybrid

Biodiesel – any diesel, provided the owner fuels with at least B20 biodiesel fuel

- Mercedes Benz E320 Bluetec
- Mercedes Benz GL320 CDI 4Matic
- Mercedes Benz ML320 CDI 4Matic
- Mercedes Benz R320 CDI 4Matic
- Volkswagen Touareg – diesel model
- Jeep Cherokee – diesel models

Ethanol – special E85 capable cars and trucks, known as flexible fuel vehicles (FFV), provided the owner fuels with E85 ethanol

- Chevrolet Monte Carlo FFV
- Chrysler Sebring FFV
- Chevrolet Impala FFV
- Ford Crown Victoria FFV
- Lincoln Town Car FFV
- Mercury Marquis FFV
- Chevrolet Silverado Pickup – FFV models
- Dodge Ram Pickup – FFV models
- GMC Sierra Pickup – FFV models
- Nissan Tital Pickup – FFV models
- Ford F150 Pickup – FFV models
- Chevrolet Vans – FFV models
- GMC Savana Vans – FFV models
- Chevrolet Express Vans – FFV models
- Chevrolet Uplander Minivan FFV
- Buick Terraza Minivan FFV
- Saturn Relay FFV
- Chevrolet Avalanche – FFV models
- Chevrolet Suburban – FFV models
- Chevrolet Tahoe FFV
- Chrysler Aspen – FFV models
- Dodge Durango – FFV models
- GMC Yukon – FFV models
- Jeep Commander – FFV models
- Jeep Grand Cherokee – FFV models
- Nissan Armada – FFV models

Conventionally powered & fueled vehicles, average of 35 mpg or better in city/highway rating

- Honda Civic Hybrid
- Honda Civic – automatic
- Honda Fit - manual
- Toyota Yaris – automatic or manual
- Toyota Corolla - manual
- Mini Cooper Sedan – manual

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicle

- Honda Civic CNG

Also qualifying: comparable used cars and trucks from earlier years, clean fuel conversions, i.e., to natural gas, propane and biofuels.