

Pryor, Inhofe Seek to Increase Use of Natural Gas and Propane Vehicles

Investment will Lower Gas Bills, Boost Economy, Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil

WASHINGTON D.C. – Senators Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Jim Inhofe (R-OK) today introduced legislation to increase the production and sale of natural gas and propane vehicles and develop natural gas and propane vehicle infrastructure across the country. The bill would help reduce the burden of fuel costs for consumers, encourage the development of more environmentally-friendly sources of energy, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, and strengthen the economy in regions rich in natural gas.

“Natural gas vehicles are more fuel efficient and environmentally-friendly than their gasoline counterparts, but right now their high cost and lack of infrastructure, such as gas stations, make them an unrealistic option for the average American. The *Fueling America Act* will make it easier and more practical for people to buy natural gas vehicles,” Pryor said.

“I am pleased to join with Senator Pryor in introducing legislation which encourages the use of natural gas and propane as a mainstream transportation fuel. Over the past couple of years, American consumers have been pinched by the economic pain of high gas prices. To address this challenge, we are joining together to introduce legislation that encourages the use of a proven alternative fuel and sends a market signal to manufacturers and consumers that natural gas and propane are a cost competitive alternative. Natural gas is domestic, plentiful, affordable, and clean. The promise of natural gas and propane as a mainstream transportation fuel is achievable today -- not 15 or 20 years from now,” Inhofe said.

The *Fueling America Act* provides a consumer tax credit for the purchase of natural gas or propane vehicles as well as a tax credit for the installation of natural gas and propane refueling stations. The bill also establishes a natural gas and propane vehicle research and development program within the Department of Energy and requires the General Services Administration to study increasing the federal fleet that runs on natural gas or propane.

“Increasing the production of natural gas and propane vehicles for both individual and public transportation will provide a huge boost for Arkansas' economy,” Pryor said. “Arkansas, with its abundant natural gas resources, has the capability to be a leader in the alternative energy sector and the fight to reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil. Developing the natural gas vehicle and propane industry will help Arkansas' natural gas producers grow and thrive, boosting the state's economy.”

Using recent average retail gasoline and residential natural gas prices, fuel cost savings for natural gas vehicles could be nearly \$500 a year. The Center for Business and Economic Research estimates that the production of natural gas in Arkansas' Fayetteville Shale will result in about \$17.9 billion dollars in economic impact and 11,000 jobs for the state over five years.