



**STATEMENT OF DANIEL GAGE**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**NGVAMERICA**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

*Hearing on the Climate and Community Protection Act*

February 12, 2019

Chairman Kaminsky, Chairman Engelbright, Distinguished Members of the Legislature.

I am Dan Gage, a Central New York native and President of Natural Gas Vehicles for America, the 200+ member national organization dedicated to the development of a growing, profitable, and sustainable marketplace for vehicles powered by natural gas and for using more biomethane in on-road and off-road transportation.

During my testimony over the next several minutes, the only thing we all as human beings need to do – truly need to do – to survive is to breathe. What quality of air will we be breathing?

134 million Americans live in neighborhoods with dangerously dirty air. That's more than all Americans who are food insecure and those who live in communities with unsafe drinking water combined.

Almost 40% of the U.S. population wakes every morning in communities with serious levels of criteria pollutants. Breathing in such particle pollution increases the risk of asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, and premature death. Asthma alone results in \$56 billion annually in medical costs, lost school and work days, and early deaths.

Heavy-duty trucks and buses are the #1 source of urban emissions. And 74% of heavy-duty trucks on America's roads today are not certified to the latest EPA emission standard... 3 out of every 4 trucks. And the average age of a Class 6 box truck making neighborhood deliveries today is 20.3 years old.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention, the largest increase in asthma rates from 2001-2009 was among children from communities of color – a 50% increase. In fact, African American children in New York are two times as likely to be hospitalized for asthma and four times as likely to die from asthma than their white counterparts. That's unacceptable.

Unacceptable especially because we have an immediate, cost effective resolution to this environmental injustice... conversion of heavy-duty truck and bus fleets to run on biomethane.

Fact: the cleanest heavy-duty engine in the world runs on natural gas. And this proven, Ultra Low NOx commercially-available engine is manufactured in Jamestown, New York.

That engine is 90% cleaner than the current EPA and California Air Resources Board standard... and 90% cleaner than the cleanest new diesel engine. It is a Zero Emission Equivalent vehicle providing essentially Zero Now heavy-duty technology.

And when fueled with Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) – or biogas captured above ground as organic waste breaks down, harnessed directly from decaying food waste, wastewater, agricultural waste, and landfills – these engines emit up to 125% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than diesel source to sky.

This renewable natural gas is carbon-neutral, even carbon-negative depending on the food source. In fact, biomethane has a carbon intensity of up to -303.3.

Not every pro-environmental effort needs to be an all-electric aspirational moon shot. Incremental biomethane gains have impact, like ripples in a pond.

Biomethane fuel is a proven, commercially-ready-right-now and road-tested technology. We have an established refueling infrastructure of over 2,000 stations with a mature network of manufacturers, servicers, and suppliers coast-to-coast. And natural gas fueling pays into the federal highway trust fund.

As we rapidly transition the fueling of this technology to captured biomethane, we also take a solid waste problem and create a net carbon-negative transportation solution.

In 2017, about one-quarter of all natural gas use in transportation was biomethane. In 2018, that figure was over 35%. And in states with Low Carbon Fuel Standard programs like in California, that number is well over 90%. Over the last 5 years, RNG use in transportation has increased by 840%. There is growing market demand.

Policy makers should rightly focus on the environmental and carbon impact of light-duty vehicles. But consider that minimal investments in clean medium- and heavy-duty trucks and buses yield remarkable results.

Replacing just one traditional diesel truck with one natural gas truck fueled by biomethane is the emissions equivalent of removing 119 traditional gasoline cars from our roadways. Heavy-duty equals heavy impact.

Biomethane is the only transportation fuel that not only reduces the impact on greenhouse gases but reverses its own carbon footprint.

It shouldn't just be Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It should be Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reclaim, and Refuel. We can do so through increased use of biomethane in transportation.

New York should support efforts to promote the development of Renewable Natural Gas projects throughout our state and consider the establishment of its own Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program to do so. Assembly Member Woerner recently introduced legislation to do just that – A 5262 – and we are working with Senator Parker on a same as.

These initiatives will not only have a significant environmental impact, but significant economic benefit as well.

A November study in Quebec concluded that proposed RNG production is a major driver for the province's economic development and renewable energy transition. Construction of production centers alone would produce \$20 billion in investment and contribute \$8 billion to Quebec's GDP, support 88,000 jobs, and provide \$1.3 billion in new tax revenues.

Why not here in New York?

As this committee looks to address serious clean air and climate change issues, we encourage it to adopt an "all of the above" approach that includes increased use of biomethane as a transportation fuel.

Thank you.

*NGVAmerica is a national organization of over 200 companies, environmental groups, and government organizations dedicated to the development of a growing, profitable, and sustainable market for vehicles powered by natural gas or biomethane. NGVAmerica member companies produce, distribute, and market natural gas and biomethane across North America, manufacture and service natural gas vehicles, engines, and equipment, and operate fleets powered by clean-burning gaseous fuels. Find out more at: [www.ngvamerica.org](http://www.ngvamerica.org).*

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