

When It Comes To Energy Security, Let's Start At The Federal Government's Own Loading Docks



Dear President Obama:

Early on November 7, you told a cheering Chicago crowd that:

“In the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve together - reducing our deficit, reforming our tax code ... freeing ourselves from foreign oil. We’ve got more work to do.”

We agree. And so as you set priorities for 2013, when it comes to “freeing ourselves from foreign oil,” we think the federal government should redouble its own efforts to get off imported fuel.

During your first term, you directed federal agencies to continue reducing the petroleum used by government fleets and, by 2015, to buy only alternative-fuel vehicles.

You also adopted historic nationwide fuel economy standards. They will almost double the gasoline mileage of the average car by 2025 while halving harmful greenhouse gas emissions. As importantly, these new rules provide new incentives for manufacturers to produce many more non-petroleum vehicles, including cars and vans powered by natural gas.

But, we need thousands of vehicles like these to service every federal loading dock. Each year, Uncle Sam pays approximately \$150 billion on shipping contracts with truckers and delivery services (over 35 times what the government spends on its own fleets). Much of this huge outlay goes to cover the high cost of the gasoline and diesel these vendors use.

That provides a large opportunity for fuel switching. A recent report by our foundation suggests that the government could save as much as \$7 billion a year by 2025 by shifting just 20% of Uncle Sam’s annual transport spend to vehicles that use alternative fuels — natural gas, electricity and biofuels.

In short, its time to rethink how Washington spends its transportation dollars. Buying more alternative fuel services, sourced in America, will be good for the budget, good for national security and good for the environment.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Staple, CEO
American Clean Skies Foundation



For more information about our proposals to reduce the country’s reliance on foreign oil, please read: **“Oil Shift: The Case For Switching Transportation Spending To Alternative Fueled Vehicles,”** available at <http://www.cleanskies.org/oilshift/>.