



A Program at LIFT

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December 12, 2008

Mr. Paul DeCotis
Deputy Secretary for Energy
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Re: Clean Pass Program

Dear Secretary DeCotis:

At this time, we urge New York State to include additional dedicated alternative fuel vehicles in the I-495 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane located in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The State currently permits three hybrid vehicles including the Honda Civic, Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius to travel in the HOV lane under the Clean Pass program and we congratulate the State for continuing its effort to maintain the Clean Pass program for hybrid vehicles. We also strongly believe that the State should expand the usage of the HOV lane to include additional **dedicated** alternative fueled vehicles, as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. This would include vehicles powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, electric and hydrogen. These **dedicated** alternative fuels will guarantee 100% petroleum displacement. There are currently a limited number in service in New York State, which will not create an overcrowding situation in the HOV lane, but at the same time, will encourage additional people to utilize these **dedicated** alternative fuels.

These dedicated alternative fuels were expressly indicated in the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 1992, as beneficial toward reducing our national reliance on petroleum fuel sources and the improvement of air quality for our country. Dedicated alternative fuel vehicles powered by CNG, propane, electric and hydrogen are cleaner as compared to hybrid vehicles, especially when the hybrids switch to gasoline as they travel in the HOV lane above 25 miles per hour, which is most of the time on the Long Island Expressway. Allowance of these fuels will position the State to permit all-electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles such as the Chevrolet Volt and the hydrogen powered fuel cell and internal combustion powered vehicles when they are available to the public.

Experience has clearly proven that the I-495 HOV lane is not congested under the Clean Pass program. Therefore, we believe that the expansion of the Clean Pass program to include CNG, propane, electric and hydrogen will help to fulfill the mission of EPACT of 1992 and will put New York State at the forefront of the effort to improve the air quality of Long Island, while reducing our dependency on imported petroleum.

I would be happy to meet and discuss this matter at your convenience or I can be contacted at 516.454.5164 for any questions or discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald J. Gulmi".

Ronald J. Gulmi, Chair
Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition

Cc: Echo D. Cartwright, Deputy Director