

2011-K1460

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York State Congressional delegation to commit to a clean transportation future through supporting the commercialization of advanced vehicles driven by hydrogen fuel cell technology as an integral component of an overall alternative vehicle deployment strategy designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower dependency on petroleum and create jobs for New Yorkers

WHEREAS, Volatile oil prices continue to pose severe economic hardships for U.S. households and industry; and

WHEREAS, Gasoline-fueled vehicles consume nearly three-quarters of the petroleum used in the U.S. and account for one-third of the country's greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Vehicles fueled by alternative fuels such as hydrogen fuel cells have substantially smaller carbon footprints than vehicles powered by gasoline; and

WHEREAS, Hydrogen is the most abundant element on earth, available from diverse sources including renewable sources, and can offer an unlimited supply of fuel, once released from substances that bind it, such as water or biomass; and

WHEREAS, The development and promotion of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the United States can help ensure long-term economic viability of the industry and support environmentally responsible fuel production and transportation systems that strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has provided substantial incentives to develop, produce and deploy battery-powered and electric vehicles, the U.S.'s alternative vehicle market will also have to be responsive to consumer demands for vehicles that can be refueled quickly, provide family-sized functionality and have a mileage range similar to

combustion engine vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Major foreign and domestic automobile manufacturers including GM, Daimler, Hyundai, Honda, and Toyota, have publicly announced their intention to commercially market new product lines that are fueled by hydrogen by 2015 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, Countries that adopt policies to encourage the development and early deployment of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and related fueling infrastructure will gain competitive advantage in the market to produce such vehicles, revitalizing the auto industry within their borders; and

WHEREAS, The remaining challenges to the commercial success of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles can only be addressed through market-based learning cycles with customers driving such vehicles in real conditions; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that federal energy policy efforts be directed to facilitate collaboration among local, state and federal governments, hydrogen fuel providers, infrastructure contractors, automakers, service stations, and consumers as well as other industry and financial stakeholders to facilitate such market-based learning cycles; and

WHEREAS, Germany, Japan, Korea and other European countries have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and entered into agreements with major automobile makers to deploy hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and build-out infrastructure to support fueling of such vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Continued federal investment coupled with a strong U.S. policy commitment to improve and integrate hydrogen fuel cell technologies would give American businesses more options to cut energy costs and reduce petroleum use, as well as increase American domestic energy resulting in increased energy security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to commit to achieving a clean transportation future based on the rapid commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies by providing neces-

sary federal funds in the form of tax incentives, tax credits and grants for fuel cell vehicles, hydrogen fuels and infrastructure development and deployment to accelerate the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles, and ensure that appropriate federal funding be provided to support those activities in New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York, the United States Secretary of Energy, the United States Secretary of Transportation, and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.