

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2070

To promote the domestic development and deployment of natural gas and clean energy technologies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To promote the domestic development and deployment of natural gas and clean energy technologies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Energy
5 and Alternatives Rewards Act” or the “NGEAR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish clean energy
8 policies that—

1 (1) provide market certainty to drive private
 2 and commercial capital investment in clean energy
 3 options;

4 (2) promote clean energy technologies that
 5 will—

6 (A) lead to increased production, diversity,
 7 and dissemination of energy generation; and

8 (B) enable the United States to bridge the
 9 gap from foreign energy imports to secure, do-
 10 mestically produced energy; and

11 (3) contain clean energy incentives that will—

12 (A) provide for ongoing increases in energy
 13 demands;

14 (B) support the growth of jobs and busi-
 15 nesses in America; and

16 (C) reduce vehicular petroleum use and
 17 emissions.

18 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS EXCISE TAX**

19 **CREDITS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 6426(d)(5) and
 21 6426(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each
 22 amended by striking “December 31, 2011 (September 30,
 23 2014, in the case of any sale or use involving liquefied
 24 hydrogen)” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS FOR DIRECT PAY-
 2 MENTS.—Paragraph (6) of section 6427(e) of the Internal
 3 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

4 (1) by adding “and” at the end of subpara-
 5 graph (B), and

6 (2) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
 7 inserting the following new subparagraph:

8 “(C) any alternative fuel or alternative fuel
 9 mixture (as defined in subsection (d)(2) or
 10 (e)(3) of section 6426) sold or used after De-
 11 cember 31, 2016.”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 13 this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after December
 14 31, 2011.

15 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE**
 16 **FUEL VEHICLE REFUELING PROPERTY CRED-**
 17 **IT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 30C(g)
 19 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read
 20 as follows:

21 “(1) in the case of property of a character sub-
 22 ject to an allowance for depreciation, after December
 23 31, 2016, and”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 2 this section shall apply to property placed in service after
 3 December 31, 2011.

4 **SEC. 5. NATURAL GAS ENERGY AND ALTERNATIVES RE-**
 5 **BATES PROGRAM.**

6 Section 400CC of the Energy Policy and Conserva-
 7 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6374b) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 400CC. ALTERNATIVE FUELS BUS PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ALTERNATIVE FUEL.—The term ‘alter-
 11 native fuel’ means natural gas, liquid petroleum gas,
 12 hydrogen, or fuel cell.

13 “(2) ALTERNATIVELY FUELED BUS.—The term
 14 ‘alternatively fueled bus’ means—

15 “(A) a school bus (as defined in section
 16 390.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations)
 17 that operates on alternative fuel;

18 “(B) a multifunction school activity bus
 19 (as defined in section 571.3 of title 49, Code of
 20 Federal Regulations) that operates on alter-
 21 native fuel; or

22 “(C) a motor vehicle that—

23 “(i) provides public transportation (as
 24 defined in section 5302(a)(10) of title 49,
 25 United States Code); and

1 “(ii) operates on alternative fuel.

2 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term eligible enti-
3 ty means—

4 “(A) a public or private entity providing
5 transportation exclusively for school students,
6 personnel, and equipment; or

7 “(B) a public entity providing mass transit
8 services to the public.

9 “(b) REBATE PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-
11 tation shall establish the Natural Gas Energy and
12 Alternatives Rebates Program (referred to in this
13 section as the ‘NGEAR Program’) to subsidize the
14 purchase of alternatively fueled buses by eligible en-
15 tities.

16 “(2) AMOUNTS.—An eligible entity that pur-
17 chases an alternatively fueled bus during the period
18 beginning on the date of the enactment of the
19 NGEAR Act and ending on December 31, 2016, is
20 eligible to receive a rebate from the Department of
21 Transportation in an amount equal to the lesser
22 of—

23 “(A) 30 percent of the purchase price of
24 the alternatively fueled bus; or

25 “(B) \$15,000.

1 “(3) APPLICATION.—Eligible entities desiring a
2 rebate under this subsection shall submit an applica-
3 tion to the Secretary of Transportation that contains
4 copies of relevant sales invoices and any additional
5 information that the Secretary of Transportation
6 may require.”.

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