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FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS LETTER TO SUPPORT THE CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM

July ??, 2017

The Honorable [NAME]
[U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate]
Washington, DC [20515 for House; 20510 for Senate]

**Re: Ensuring Adequate Funding for the Department of Energy Clean Cities
Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Deployment Program**

Dear [NAME]:

We are writing on behalf of the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition and our sixty stakeholders in the alternative fuels industry in Vermont to request your support to ensure that adequate funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Cities alternative fuels deployment program is included in the FY 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

We were alarmed to see that the White House budget is proposing to cut the DOE Vehicle Technologies program from \$307 million to \$82 million (a 73% cut of \$225 million). And they are proposing to eliminate the Clean Cities program. We need your support to maintain funding for this critical program. By advancing markets for alternative fuels and vehicles, the Clean Cities program is helping to stabilize gasoline prices, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and create American jobs.

Thanks to the Clean Cities program, in 2016 alone, Vermont was able to displace 922,714 gallons of gasoline and eliminate 6,344 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Specifically, we are asking you to formally request that the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee include the following report language in the Vehicle Technologies section of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account in the FY 2018 appropriations bill:

Within available funds, the Committee recommends \$50,000,000 for Outreach, Deployment and Analysis to support the Clean Cities Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Deployment Program. Within this amount, \$40,000,000 is provided for Deployment through the Clean Cities Program, including at least \$20,000,000 for competitive grants to support alternative fuel, infrastructure, and vehicle deployment activities. When issuing competitive grants, the Department is encouraged to focus on awards that range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each and include at least one Clean Cities coalition partner. The Department is encouraged to ensure balance in the award of funds to achieve varied aims in fostering broader adoption of clean vehicles and installation of supporting infrastructure.

Despite the recent decrease in the cost of gasoline, gas prices in America remain extremely volatile and we continue to send more than *\$150 billion a year* to OPEC and other foreign countries for oil. Meanwhile, China and other nations threaten to beat out the United States for leadership of the global alternative fuels market as we continue our struggle for economic recovery. More than 70 percent of the oil we import is used as our primary transportation fuel – as gasoline for our national fleet of 250 million cars and light trucks, or as diesel fuel for our 3.6 million heavy-duty trucks.

The DOE Clean Cities Program is the agency's only initiative focused on the deployment of alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure. Federal funding through the DOE has leveraged billions in private investment and unleashed American ingenuity and technology innovation to enable vehicles using electricity, natural gas, propane, biodiesel, ethanol, and hydrogen to take hold in the market place. Since 1993, the nation's nearly 90 Clean Cities coalitions and their 15,000 stakeholders have played a leading role in implementing local deployment programs and projects that have reduced petroleum consumption by more than 8.5 billion gallons. The Clean Cities program is currently on track to decrease petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons a year by 2020.

According to DOE annual reports, from 2006 through 2015 the Clean Cities program has leveraged \$207.3 million in program funding into another \$2.2 billion in public and private investment in alternative fuels deployment projects. This is an overall leverage ratio of \$10.60 for every \$1 in the Clean Cities budget. These funds were used to deploy a diverse array of petroleum reducing fuels, vehicles and refueling stations that were based on specific state and local transportation needs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are now more than 1.2 million alternative fuel vehicles on the road in the United States and 50,000 alternative fueling stations.

Again, we urge you to request the above report language in the FY 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which would ensure adequate funding for the deployment of alternative fuels and vehicles through the DOE Clean Cities program. Stability and predictability are needed in federal support for alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles to allow long-term private sector planning and investment to occur efficiently. Now is the time for Congress to maintain critical investment in the deployment of clean, domestically produced fuels and vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have questions or want more information concerning our request.

Sincerely,