

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 277

To prohibit the use of amounts in a Members' Representational Allowance to provide any vehicle which does not use alternative fuels.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To prohibit the use of amounts in a Members' Representational Allowance to provide any vehicle which does not use alternative fuels.

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 "Congress Leads by
5 Example through Alt-fuel Resources Act" or the "CLEAR
6 Act".

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) The national average price of a gallon of
10 gasoline has doubled in the past 3 years.

1 (2) The need to end the Nation's dependency
2 on foreign oil is a vital component of homeland secu-
3 rity.

4 (3) The world's supply of oil is limited and un-
5 stable, and therefore the need to develop new energy
6 technologies is pressing.

7 (4) Alternative sources of energy such as eth-
8 anol, hydrogen, and electricity have been proven ef-
9 fective and efficient in powering passenger vehicles.

10 (5) There have been several pieces of legislation
11 introduced in the House of Representatives to ad-
12 dress the growing problem of high gas prices and
13 the need to utilize alternative sources of energy.

14 (6) Members of Congress should follow their
15 own example of setting forth legislation that encour-
16 ages the use of alternatively fueled vehicles.

17 (7) In 2005 the total cost of automobile leases
18 for Members of Congress surpassed \$1 million, and
19 a collective switch to alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid
20 vehicles, or vehicles powered by bio-fuels could po-
21 tentially save American taxpayers thousands of dol-
22 lars annually.

23 (8) The General Services Administration has al-
24 ready purchased over 68,000 alternative fueled vehi-

1 cles for the use of Federal customers, more than any
2 other organization in the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING USE OF MEMBERS' REPRESENTA-**
4 **TIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR VEHICLES NOT**
5 **USING ALTERNATIVE FUELS.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—No portion of a Members' Rep-
7 resentational Allowance may be used to provide any indi-
8 vidual with a vehicle, including providing an individual
9 with a vehicle under a long-term lease, which is not an
10 alternative fuel vehicle.

11 (b) ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES DESCRIBED.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, an “alter-
13 native fuel vehicle” means any of the following:

14 (A) A vehicle treated as an alternative
15 fuels vehicle by the Administrator of General
16 Services under standards established by the Ad-
17 ministrator.

18 (B) Any other vehicle powered by alter-
19 native fuel or synthetic fuel.

20 (C) Any other vehicle powered in whole or
21 in part by—

22 (i) flexible-fuel operating systems;

23 (ii) bio-fuel operating systems;

24 (iii) electrical operating systems; or

1 (iv) hybrid-electrical operating sys-
2 tems.

3 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In paragraph (1)—

4 (A) the term “alternative fuel” has the
5 meaning given such term in section 301(2) of
6 the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C.
7 13211(2));

8 (B) the term “bio-fuel” means any fuel
9 containing any organic matter that is available
10 on a renewable or recurring basis, including ag-
11 ricultural crops and trees, wood and wood
12 wastes and residues, plants (including aquatic
13 plants), grasses, residues, fibers, animal wastes,
14 municipal wastes, and other waste materials;
15 and

16 (C) the term “synthetic fuel” means any
17 fuel obtained from coal or from natural gas, or
18 derived from resources such as oil shale, tar
19 sand, or waste plastics.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall apply
22 with respect to amounts expended on or after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act.

24 (2) TREATMENT OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In
25 the case of amounts expended under a contract en-

1 tered into prior to the date of the enactment of this
2 Act, subsection (a) shall first apply with respect to
3 amounts expended during the One Hundred Elev-
4 enth Congress.

○