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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 415

Offered January 11, 1995

Commending certain businesses and others for investments in clean fuel vehicles.

Patrons—Mayer, Behm, Giesen, Hall and Plum; Senators: Barry, Benedetti and Calhoun

WHEREAS, three regions of Virginia—Northern Virginia, metropolitan Richmond, and Hampton Roads—have been identified by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as air quality nonattainment areas; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicles are major sources of air pollution in all three of these areas; and

WHEREAS, one means of reducing air pollution resulting from motor vehicle operation is the replacement of traditional motor fuels—gasoline and diesel fuel—with clean-burning alternative fuels; and

WHEREAS, as with most new technologies, initial financial costs to replace conventionally fueled vehicles with alternatively fueled vehicles, obtain fuel for these vehicles, and provide the infrastructure—including training of maintenance personnel—for support of their operation have oftentimes been considerable; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these costs, many Virginia businesses, industries, school divisions, state and local government agencies, and public and private entities have seen the long-term advantages of alternatively fueled vehicles; and

WHEREAS, growth in demand for alternatively fueled vehicles, their fuels, and their supporting infrastructure leads inexorably to new business opportunities and more jobs while simultaneously enhancing the environment by reducing air pollution; safeguarding America's energy independence; and easing our balance of trade difficulties by curbing the demand for imported petroleum and petroleum-based products; and

WHEREAS, as the number of alternatively fueled vehicles increases and availability of alternative fuels expands, the cost disparity between the two kinds of vehicle inevitably will shrink; and

WHEREAS, this achievement will have been made possible by those leaders in business, industry, and government who were among the first to place the long-term benefits of alternatively fueled vehicle ahead of their initially higher cost; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly of Virginia hereby commend those Virginia businesses, industries, school divisions, state and local government agencies, and public and private entities that have been in among the Commonwealth's clean fuel pioneers been willing to make short-term financial expenditures for the sake of long-term advantages in economic stimulus, environmental enhancement, and energy independence.

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