

EDITORIALS, REVIEWS AND ASIDES

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Clinton Names National Alternative Fuels Week

President Clinton has issued a proclamation naming the week of May 31 through June 6, 1998 as National Alternative Fuels Week, and asking Americans to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities. In making this proclamation, the administration pointed out that the United States faces major challenges in meeting the ever-increasing demand for transportation goods and services, while at the same time minimizing the adverse impact on energy resources, the environment and future prosperity.

"Today's American transportation system remains enormously dependent on oil," the proclamation stated. "Highway transportation alone accounts for more than half of our Nation's oil demand, and the number of vehicles and miles driven on our roads is steadily increasing. Transportation is the second largest contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and will likely be the most significant contributor by the year 2000."

But the administration noted that vehicles powered by domestically-produced alternative fuels, including ethanol, methanol, natural gas, propane, electricity and biodiesel, already are on the market and available to American consumers. Already, more than 350,000 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) are on the road, with 60 communities participating in the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. The Clean Cities program fosters the development of AFV markets in a network of cities across the country through partnerships among fuel suppliers, vehicle fleet operators, federal, state and local governments and private sector organizations.

The proclamation says AFVs can make significant contributions to energy security and environmental quality, while reducing demand for imported oil, creating new products, jobs and businesses and improving air quality.

"Through the efforts of program participants, we are moving closer to our goal of building a transportation system for our nation that meets the energy, economic, and environmental needs of Americans today and of generations yet to come," the proclamation stated.

(WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE: 5/29)

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