

**OREGON HOUSE CO-CHAIRS OF  
TRANSPORTATION & ECON. DEV.  
BENTZ AND READ  
PRESENT A MEANS OF MAKING LOW COST  
ALTERNATIVE FUEL AVAILABLE TO OREGON**

MEASURE: HB 3622  
EXHIBIT: D  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 1/20/2011 PAGES: 3  
SUBMITTED BY: REP. CLIFF BENTZ

**GOAL:** To help Oregon's economy by immediately making lower-cost energy available to all Oregonians.

**HOW?** By converting school bus fleets to compressed natural gas (CNG) which will pay for and establish CNG filling stations open to all Oregonians throughout the state.

**WHY?** Many reasons, but the most important is the cost.

**Cost of Gasoline** (west coast average, March 21, 2011, excluding tax)<sup>i</sup>:

- \$3.373 per gallon<sup>ii</sup>

**Cost of Diesel** (west coast average, March 21, 2011, excluding tax)<sup>iii</sup>:

- \$3.56 per gallon<sup>iv</sup>

**Cost of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**

**Compared to Gas:**<sup>v</sup>

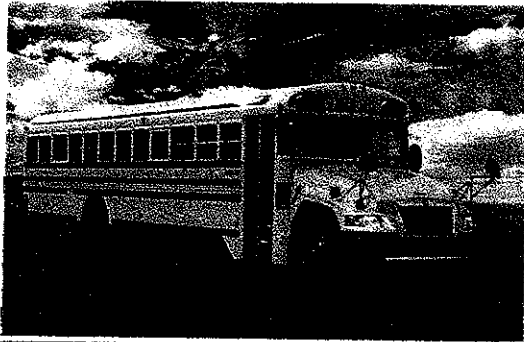
- \$1.228 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE)<sup>vi</sup>
- \$1.326 per diesel gallon equivalent (DGE)

Savings:

- **Gasoline:** \$3.373
- **CNG:** - \$1.228  
\$2.145 saved (63%!)

- **Diesel:** \$3.56
- **CNG:** - \$1.326  
\$2.234 saved (62%!)

# HOW TO CONVERT SCHOOL BUSES TO CNG



## 1 CNG School Buses

### Conversion Cost:

\$32,000--\$67,000 per bus

### Cost of New CNG Bus:

\$136,000--\$156,000

(Cost of new diesel bus: \$112,000)

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## CNG Filling Stations

### Cost of Construction:

\$80,000--\$100,000

### Open to the Public:

For example: Jackson County Motor pool in Medford, OR, is open to the public, charging \$1.41/GGE

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## Savings on Fuel

### Approximate Cost:

\$1.228/Gasoline Gallon Equivalent (GGE)

\$1.326/Diesel Gallon Equivalent (DGE)

### Example of Potential Savings:

Salem-Keizer school buses travel 3 million miles/year, using over 500,000 gallons of fuel.

--Annual cost if all buses are diesel fueled= \$1,780,000

--Annual cost if all buses are CNG fueled= \$663,000

--A CNG fueled fleet would save Salem-Keizer \$1,117,000/year

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## Grants & Tax Credits

### Federal Grants:

1. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program
2. Federal Transit Authority Grants
3. Clean Cities Program
4. Clean School Bus Program

### Federal Tax Credits:

1. 30% or \$30,000 tax credit for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure
2. \$0.50 per GGE tax credit for CNG sold as motor fuel

### Oregon Tax Credit:

1. BETC Tax Credit: 35% of the cost of CNG fuel infrastructure

## **LEGISLATION NEEDED:**

- A) A bill instructing the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to work with schools to:**
  - 1) Convert to CNG buses**
  - 2) Provide sources of CNG on ODOE's website**
  - 3) Publish and educate Oregonians on the availability of alternative fuel**
  
- B) A bill that allows school districts to retain Transportation Grant money that is saved by converting to CNG. (HB 2437-3)**

## **SUMMARY:**

- 1) CNG will save Oregon money
- 2) This process will allow school districts to acquire new school buses for dramatically reduced prices because of tax credits.
- 3) CNG will improve safety for school children
- 4) CNG will create an alternative to foreign oil imports
- 5) CNG will reduce the use of ethanol which will help the world food supply.
- 6) CNG is the “here and now” solution:
  - A. The USA has a 100 year supply of natural gas here in the United States!
  - B. The delivery infrastructure is already in place.
  - C. The conversion kits for cars and truck already exist.

## 1) Save Oregon Money

### A) Fuel Savings:

**Cost of Gasoline** (west coast average, March 21, 2011, excluding tax)<sup>vii</sup>:

- \$3.373 per gallon<sup>viii</sup>

**Cost of Diesel** (west coast average, March 21, 2011, excluding tax)<sup>ix</sup>:

- \$3.56 per gallon<sup>x</sup>

**Cost of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):**<sup>xi</sup>

- \$1.228 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE)<sup>xii</sup>
- \$1.326 per diesel gallon equivalent (DGE)

**Savings:**

- Gasoline:  $\$3.373 - \$1.228 = \$2.145$  per gallon saved (63%!)
- Diesel:  $\$3.56 - \$1.326 = \$2.234$  per gallon saved (62%!)

**According to the school district's website, Salem-Keizer school buses travel over 3 million miles per year, using over 500,000 gallons of fuel. There are 272 school buses in Salem-Keizer's fleet.**

- If every bus was fueled by diesel, the annual cost of fuel would be approximately \$1,780,000.
- If every bus was fueled by CNG, the annual cost of fuel would be approximately \$663,000.
- A school bus fleet fueled by CNG would save Salem-Keizer School District approximately \$1,117,000 per year.
- Savings per bus: \$4,106.62 per bus per year

### B) Costs of Converting School Bus Fleets to CNG

**Purchasing New CNG Buses**<sup>xiii</sup>

- Cost of a new 86-passenger CNG bus: approximately \$136,000 - \$156,000
- Cost of a new 86-passenger diesel bus: approximately \$112,000

**Converting Old Buses to CNG**<sup>xiv</sup>

- Approximate cost to convert from gasoline to CNG: \$32,000 per bus
  - Average time for conversion: 45 days
- Approximate cost to convert from diesel to CNG: \$67,000 per bus
  - Average time for conversion: 4 months

### C) Cost of Installing a Compressed Natural Gas Filling Station

**Filling stations are easily installed at the location where school buses are docked.**

- Approximate cost of CNG compressor installation<sup>xv</sup>

- CNG bus costs \$156,000
- The “incremental cost” is \$44,000
- **The School District is eligible for a tax credit of %15,400 (35% of \$44,000)**
- **3) BETC tax credit**
  - 25% (up to \$750) of the cost of installing a CNG fueling station in a dwelling
  - ORS 316.115
  - (HB 2524 would extend this credit until 2018)

### 3) Cleaner Fuel; Safer for Children

#### **Natural gas vehicles emit far fewer pollutants than gasoline powered vehicles**

- Reduces **carbon monoxide** emissions 90% - 97%
- Reduces **carbon dioxide** emissions 25%
- Reduces **nitrogen oxide** emissions 35% - 60%
- Potentially reduces non-methane hydrocarbon emissions 50%-75%
- Emits little or no **particulate matter**
- Eliminates evaporative emissions

### 4) CNG Will Reduce Dependency on Foreign Oil

The United States imported over 4 billion barrels of oil in 2009

- Since the federal tax incentives were introduced in 2006, natural gas use in vehicles increased 25%, which displaced 320 million gallons of gasoline.

### 5) CNG Will Reduce the Use of Ethanol

The federal ethanol mandates (“renewable fuel standard”) have been a major factor in the skyrocketing prices of food.

- Global food prices have risen for eight consecutive months<sup>xvii</sup>
- **Reducing the use of ethanol as fuel will help to steady global food prices**

### 6) CNG: The “Here and Now” Solution

**Here:** There is a 120 to 150 year supply of natural gas in the United States

**Now:** The infrastructure is already in place

- There are approximately 1,300 natural gas stations in the United States
- “Conversion kits” exist and are readily available to the public

Appendix A:

**“Gallon Equivalent” Cost of Compressed Natural Gas**

- \$0.98208 per therm
  - Cascade Natural Gas Corporation<sup>xviii</sup>
- Conversion from therm to **Gasoline Gallon Equivalent (GGE)**
  - 1 therm = 100,000 BTUs
  - 1 gallon of gasoline is approximately 125,000 BTUs
  - Therefore, 1 gallon of gasoline = 1.25 therms of natural gas
  - Therefore, using Cascade Natural Gas’s price for CNG, the Gasoline Gallon Equivalent price of natural gas is (\$0.98208 times 1.25):
    - **\$1.228 per GGE**
- Conversion from therm to **Diesel Gallon Equivalent (DGE)**
  - 1 therm = 100,000 BTUs
  - 1 gallon of diesel is approximately 135,000 BTUs
  - Therefore, 1 gallon of diesel = 1.35 therms of natural gas
  - Therefore, using Cascade Natural Gas’s price for CNG, the Diesel Gallon Equivalent price of natural gas is (\$0.98208 times 1.35):
    - **\$1.326 per DGE**

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<sup>i</sup> Gasoline taxes: Federal: \$0.184 per gallon; Oregon: \$0.30 per gallon

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration

<sup>iii</sup> Diesel taxes: Federal: \$0.244 per gallon; Oregon: \$0.30 per gallon

<sup>iv</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration

<sup>v</sup> Based on Cascade Natural Gas Corporation’s CNG rate of \$0.98208 per therm (Schedule No. 112)

<sup>vi</sup> See Appendix A for unit conversion

<sup>vii</sup> Gasoline taxes: Federal: \$0.184 per gallon; Oregon: \$0.30 per gallon

<sup>viii</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration

<sup>ix</sup> Diesel taxes: Federal: \$0.244 per gallon; Oregon: \$0.30 per gallon

<sup>x</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration

<sup>xi</sup> Based on Cascade Natural Gas Corporation’s CNG rate of \$0.98208 per therm (Schedule No. 112)

<sup>xii</sup> See Appendix A for unit conversion

<sup>xiii</sup> Charles Stone, Transportation Director of Mansfield Independent School District (TX)

<sup>xiv</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xv</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xvi</sup> Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, <http://www.ngvc.org/>

<sup>xvii</sup> “Ethanol Blamed for Record Food Prices.” Technology Review (published by MIT) March 23, 2011

<sup>xviii</sup> Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, Compressed Natural Gas Service, Schedule No. 112

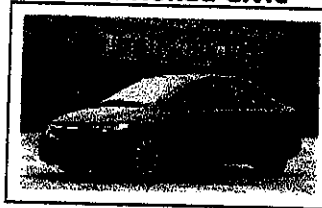
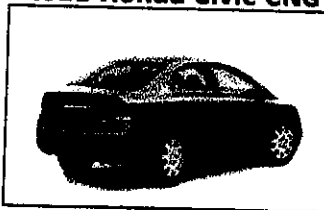
**Compare Side-by-Side**

[Remove](#)

[Remove](#)

**2011 Honda Civic CNG**

**2011 Honda Civic**



*Compare side-by-side*



[Use Your Gas Prices & Annual Miles](#)

Switch Units:  
[Gallons/100 Miles](#)  
[Liters/100 km](#)

**New MPG tests are more realistic**



**Learn more about "Your MPG"**

**Natural Gas Vehicle**

**Estimated New EPA MPG**

NATURAL GAS			REGULAR GASOLINE		
	<b>28</b>			<b>29</b>	
	Combined			Combined	
<b>24</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>36</b>
City		Hwy	City		Hwy

**MPG Estimates from Drivers Like You**

User fuel economy estimates are not yet available for this vehicle. Average based on 1 vehicle. **32.3**

[Disclaimer](#)

[View Individual Estimates](#)

**Fuel Economics**

<b>Cost to drive 25 Miles</b>	<b>\$1.72</b>	<b>\$3.08</b>
<b>Fuel to Drive 25 Miles</b>	0.89 gal	0.86 gal
<b>Cost of a Fill-up</b>	-	<b>\$42.41</b>
<b>Miles on a Tank</b>	-	345 miles
<b>Tank Size</b>	-	13.2 gal
<b>Annual Fuel Cost*</b>	\$1034	\$1847

Based on 45% highway driving, 55% city driving, 15000 miles/year and Reg.: \$3.57 per gallon  
 CNG: \$1.93 per gallon equivalent\*  
 Click to use your gas prices and annual miles

**Energy Impact Score**

**Annual Petroleum Consumption**  
 (1 barrel=42 gallons)

**0.1 barrels**

**11.8 barrels**

**Carbon Footprint**

**Annual Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Emitted**

**5.6**

**6.5**

[Personalize Annual Miles](#)

3.5 16.2

3.5 16.2

**EPA Air Pollution Score**

**Air Pollution Score**



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**More about emissions....**

- [What's the difference between air pollution and greenhouse gases?](#)
- [Want more info? See EPA's Green Vehicle Guide](#)

**Safety**

**EPA Size Class**

NA

Subcompact Cars

NA

Subcompact Cars