

To: The Utah Public Service Commission

From: Daniel J Harris, Associate State Director
AARP Utah

Date: July 3, 2013

Re: Comments on Addressing Air Quality through Enhanced Use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles
(Docket No. 13-057-02)

Docket No. 13-057-02 pertains to SB 275, Energy Amendments, which intends to address air quality issues by promoting the use of natural gas vehicles. The new law requires the Commission to initiate and conduct proceedings related to promotion of alternative fuel vehicles, including consideration of the role that gas utilities should play, and the potential funding options for expansion of infrastructure and facilities for alternative fuel vehicles (Sec. 54-1-13).

Air quality and its effects is a growing concern across the state. SB 275 was adopted with the intention of improving the natural gas vehicle infrastructure and reducing air pollution throughout the state. AARP is concerned about the financing of this infrastructure, as it is described in SB 275. Under the legislation, residential customers of Questar would subsidize natural gas vehicle infrastructure through their home utility bills. AARP is concerned about any additional burden on consumers who are already struggling under the strain of rising home energy costs.

To the extent that residential customers are being asked to subsidize the cost of infrastructure for natural gas vehicles, these charges should be clearly disclosed on the residential bill.

AARP urges the Commission to continue to find ways to improve air quality in Utah while promoting infrastructure improvements paid for by the people most likely to use the infrastructure.