

**From:** Julie Orchard  
**To:** Livingston, Merilee  
**Date:** 1/6/2009 6:18 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Chris Davis

Did I send you this one? JPO

UTAH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 1/5/2009 2:06 PM >>>  
Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office Constituent Services, on 12/31/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 1/19/2009.

Chris Davis

RECEIVED

**SUBJECT:**

The Utah Public Services Commission recently found use of Natural Gas in vehicles Non-Traditional and ordered Questar to base the cost of this service on international (much higher) rather than local natural gas rates.

I know you have been a strong proponent of NGVs, even operating one of your own. I've also made a significant investment in three CNG cars over the last two years, based primarily on the long term cost savings of the fuel, but also for its clean air benefits. This ruling will hurt me financially, and many others I know in Centerville and Bountiful who operate CNG vehicles. My letter to the PSC lays out four main points, asking them to:

1) Re-Examine Traditional Use:

Vehicles have been operated on Natural Gas since Etienne Lenoir used it in 1890's to power one of the first internal combustion engine driven vehicles. Residential use for heating, clothes drying, etc didn't get started until some forty years later, in the 1930's.

Thankfully, wise individuals in the 1930's saw the benefits of switching from coal to non-traditional natural gas to heat homes. We breathe much better air today because of that choice, and your agency's continued watchfulness over the cost of that fuel. Please consider the chance you have today to promote a similar change in how vehicles are powered and how much pollution they produce.

2) Support Clean Air:

As noted above, NGV's produce significantly less air pollution than similar unleaded (and often gas/electric hybrid) vehicles of the same class. Utah urban centers NEED help with air quality. While the PSC may not directly deal with air standards, I'm sure you'll agree that helping reduce the number of Red air quality days is a Public Service.

Utah's EPA air quality nonattainment areas need to pursue all improvement options. NGVs help, but take away the long term cost incentive of lower fuel cost and you WILL kill a growing alternate fuel vehicle group and the associated environmental benefits. Natural Gas systems for vehicles are expensive! state tax credits (which are being cut back this year) help, but do not cover these costs. Long term savings in fuel cost lead most owners to invest in NGVs. The significant savings seen this last year lead to unprecedented growth in this use of this fuel! this is a good thing, please don't undo it.

3) Encourage Energy Independence:

I grew up on the coast of Maine, where my grandfather worked on the docks and brought home lobster for dinner at least once a week. He didn't make much money, but in that area, lobster is plentiful and cheap. Natural Gas is plentiful and inexpensive here in Utah. Let us use this local resource in our vehicles at a local price. It will build the user base, encourage repair and retrofit industry, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and improve air quality.

4) Consider Cost Plus Pricing:

I understand there is a cost associated with compressing natural gas and maintaining the pumps and stations. Let Questar submit a cost plus plan based on the local (WEXPRO) fuel cost plus a fair profit. I'm sure this will be more than the residential cost, but should be less than the global market rate and not nearly as volatile.

In closing, this affordable fuel has been a godsend to our family over the last two years. My wife and I both have to commute to jobs off the standard light rail lines and the cost of doing so on unleaded would have sunk our budget this year for certain!

probably last year too. Providing this affordable and clean transportation fuel is a huge Public Service and I thank you, the PSC, and Questar for having the foresight to implement and maintain this resource during years when unleaded was relatively cheap. Please don't undo what has been accomplished so far and the bright future this alternate transportation fuel could have here in Utah.

I think your direct involvement could have a real impact here, and I hope you can find the time to support a re-hearing.

Respectfully,

Chris Davis