

From: Julie Orchard
To: Livingston, Merilee
Date: 1/12/2009 12:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Greg Schow

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 1/12/2009 12:52 AM>>>
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Greg Schow

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SUBJECT:

Dear Governor Huntsman,

I am writing to raise my concerns about a recent Public Services Commission ruling dated December 22, 2008. This ruling would raise CNG rates from their current rates to \$1.43 per gallon (more than traditional gas). I know that you are a supporter of clean energy and especially CNG for vehicle use. I also know that you understand the significant challenges to our air quality along the Wasatch front. I was shocked to read last year that living in Salt Lake was the the equivalent of smoking 5 packs of cigarettes due to our terrible air quality.

I am a new NGV owner and was preparing to purchase a second until I heard about this ruling by the PSC. My young family had to save significant money to purchase our first NGV with the hopes that over a 6-8 year time frame we would be able to recoupe those costs plus save money in the process. I have written the PSC about this issue and highlighted what I see are the 4 major impacts of such a ruling.

1. Dirty Utah Air- The American Lung Association named Salt Lake as the 6th worst Metropolitan area in short term particulate pollution (<http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK9O0E&b=50752>). My favorite part about being a CNG owner is that Iâ€™m not the only one who benefits. Everyone around has cleaner air, and cheaper gas prices.

2. Supporting Terrorist States- According to this ruling Compressed Natural Gas would now be more expensive than gasoline (\$1.43 vs. \$1.31 for gasoline). The PSC ruling is a disincentive to use clean fuel and incentivizes Utahnâ€™s to use gas from unfriendly countries.

3. Incentive distortion- Many utilities including Questar give incentives for more energy efficient appliances, insulation etc in our homes. There is no difference in the incentive NGV owners have received with a slight subsidy in the CNG rate at the pump for this â€œtraditionalâ€ use of CNG.

4. Excessive penalties- It is my understanding that as a consumer of Questar Natural Gas in my home I pay a rate at least partially based on a Wexpro price, which takes advantage of local cheaper sources of fuel. This ruling seems to not only remove incentives for NGV owners, but to excessively penalize us by forcing us to pay a full market price instead of the cheaper price all other Utah Questar customers enjoy.

Please weigh in on this important issue and help the PSC reverse their decision to increase pollution, support terrorist states and heavily penalize Utahnâ€™s NGV drivers. We should all be in this together and I believe that reversing this ruling makes economic, environmental and social sense.

Sincerely,
Greg Schow