

From: Mr. Gary R. Gendreau  
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Date: March 10, 2009

Re: Senate Bill 699: An Act Concerning the Registration and Operation of Certain Low Speed Neighborhood Electric Vehicles:

Sirs,

Please consider adopting the above Act which would allow Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV's) to be operated on city streets which have a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour (MPH) or less. There are many beneficial reasons to allow these vehicles. Below I have noted just a few of the benefits to the general public.

NEV's are battery operated, low speed vehicles and would act as a viable alternative to gasoline or diesel powered vehicles. When someone chooses, like I have, the 100 % renewable energy option for their residential electricity, the vehicle will, in effect, run on a completely renewable energy source. This will result in no airborne pollution. Additionally, the batteries are recyclable and would not end up in a landfill.

NEV's are presently allowed on city streets in over 40 states, meet federal standards for safety and are a proven, safe mode of transportation. These vehicles are governed at a maximum speed of 25 MPH which is the reason why they can be operated safely on streets which have a posted speed of 35 MPH or less. Each of these vehicles needs to be registered, carry the necessary liability insurance and be operated by a licensed driver.

At present, Connecticut law allows these vehicles to operate on state college campuses. Expanding the current Connecticut law to include city streets would allow immediate use of these vehicles by the general population.

As these vehicles are not costly to purchase and maintain, they will become an affordable alternative to larger, more expensive passenger vehicles. Students, senior citizens, those of limited means and environmentally conscious citizens would find these vehicles attractive.

Additional jobs in Connecticut would result. Sales people must be hired, mechanics need to be trained and facilities must be built for the sale and maintenance of these vehicles. This expansion of the overall automobile fleet would add additional tax revenue to both the state and individual towns via State Income Taxes and Local Property Taxes.

If the Act is adopted, Connecticut would join many of its neighbors across the country in taking the first step toward allowing its citizens to have a viable alternative to using fossil fuels for transportation.

Thank You,

Gary R. Gendreau