

HONDA

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The Honorable Edward Meyer
The Honorable Richard Roy
Chairs, Joint Committee on Environment
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

SB267 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chairman Meyer and Chairman Roy:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 2674, on behalf of Honda. Honda's New England Parts Center and Sales, Service and Parts Zone office is located in Windsor Locks & employs over 100 associates. We have over 128 dealerships for all Honda and Acura products with over 1,800 associates employed by these facilities. Honda purchases parts and materials from 3 Connecticut suppliers to produce Honda and Acura parts. American Honda Foundation recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to American School at Hartford for the Deaf to fund a comprehensive literacy initiative. We are proud to be a member of the business community in Connecticut and feel a responsibility to be a good corporate citizen in Connecticut. We respectfully request that this statement be made part of the official record maintained by the Committee on Environment regarding S267.

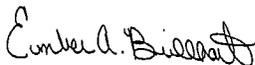
Honda is a leader in advanced technology vehicles. It was the first company to sell a hybrid electric vehicle in the United States. Honda also is the only company today producing a natural gas passenger car. With almost zero smog-forming emissions, Honda's Civic Natural Gas has been recognized by the U.S. EPA as the cleanest internal combustion engine in America. The Civic Natural Gas was awarded 2012 Green Car of the Year by the Green Car Journal. To support growing consumer interest in alternative-fuel vehicles, Honda is expanding its retail network of Civic Natural Gas retail outlets to 200 dealers in 36 states. We have 3 Civic Natural Gas dealers in Connecticut. Honda is also actively developing a fuel cell electric vehicle, a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) and a battery electric vehicle (BEV) - all for the consumer market.

Honda supports consumer incentives to help bring cutting edge technologies to the market. It is for that reason that we support SB267, which would continue existing consumer incentives for clean alternative fuels. The Civic Natural Gas has a large incremental cost over the conventional Civic sedan. Incentives such as proposed in S267 would assist in offsetting that cost differential.

However, we encourage amendments be made to the bill to continue the current practice of requiring alternative fuel vehicles to run exclusively on the alternative fuel. The proposed amendment to strike the requirement for exclusivity could result in financial incentives to consumers who do not use the alternative fuel. Without exclusivity there is a strong possibility that the state will use precious fiscal resources without seeing any of the benefits offered by increased use of alternative fuels.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our views. Please let me or Patrick McCabe and P.J. Cimini of Capitol Strategies Group, our Hartford representatives know if we may be of assistance on this or other issues relating to Honda.

Sincerely,



Ember A. Brillhart
Manager, State Relations