

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR DYSON

Introduced: 4/11/09

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Energy, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to vehicles powered by propane or compressed natural gas.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

3 **WHEREAS** the United States imports more than 60 percent of its petroleum, two-
4 thirds of which is used, in the form of gasoline and diesel fuel, to power vehicles; and

5 **WHEREAS** the demand for petroleum imports is increasing; and

6 **WHEREAS** most worldwide petroleum reserves are located in politically volatile
7 countries, making the United States vulnerable to supply disruptions; and

8 **WHEREAS** the price of gasoline and diesel fuel in the state is substantially higher
9 than in other states and places a burden on the citizens of the state; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state has an abundance of natural gas; and

11 **WHEREAS** propane provides safe, clean, reliable, efficient, and secure energy; and

12 **WHEREAS** propane is the alternative fuel most used today for transportation in the
13 United States; and

14 **WHEREAS** propane is a proven, clean-burning fuel utilized by more than 200,000
15 buses, taxis, delivery vehicles, and other fleet vehicles across the United States; and

16 **WHEREAS** powering vehicles with compressed natural gas is an existing, proven

1 technology, with more than 8,000,000 vehicles powered by compressed natural gas in service
2 and more than 12,000 compressed natural gas refueling stations worldwide; and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Energy states that compressed natural
4 gas can be used as a replacement for gasoline in light-duty vehicles and as a replacement for
5 diesel in heavy-duty vehicles; and

6 **WHEREAS** the federal government is expected to institute a carbon gas cap-and-
7 trade system to fight climate change and fund renewable energy programs; and

8 **WHEREAS** both vehicles powered by propane and vehicles powered by compressed
9 natural gas emit fewer harmful emissions, such as greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides,
10 particulate matter, toxic and carcinogenic pollutants, and carbon dioxide, than vehicles
11 powered by gasoline or diesel fuel; and

12 **WHEREAS** vehicles powered by compressed natural gas produce 25 percent less
13 greenhouse gases than vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel fuel; and

14 **WHEREAS** studies indicate that maintenance costs for vehicles powered by propane
15 or compressed natural gas are lower than for vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel fuel; and

16 **WHEREAS** the federal government provides and is expected to increase incentives
17 for use of alternative fuels; and

18 **WHEREAS**, at the current prices of various fuels, any additional cost to purchase or
19 convert state and municipal vehicles to run on propane or compressed natural gas would be
20 quickly recouped;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate requests the governor to direct all state agencies
22 to consider vehicles powered by propane or compressed natural gas when existing vehicles
23 are replaced or new vehicles are added to the state's fleet of vehicles; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate urges the governor to take advantage of the
25 incentives being offered by the federal government if the incentives benefit the state; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate will not commit state funds to assist
27 communities in the purchase of vehicles that are not powered by propane or compressed
28 natural gas if the population of the community is more than 25,000 and the community has a
29 supply of propane or natural gas unless analysis clearly proves that use of propane or
30 compressed natural gas is not economically or technologically effective; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate requests all communities with a population

- 1 of more than 25,000 to consider installing one or more fast-fill compressed natural gas
- 2 stations to facilitate the use of compressed natural gas by area residents.