

From: Julie Orchard
To: Livingston, Merilee
Date: 1/21/2009 2:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Dan Follett

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 1/21/2009 1:06 PM >>>
FYI

2009 JAN 21 P 5:29

1609391

Thank you.

RECEIVED

Dan B Follett

Email

SUBJECT:
Dear Governor Huntsman,

I'm sure you are aware of the recent PSC ruling related to CNG vehicle fuel in Utah (Docket 07-053-13). Rather than repeat the particulars of that ruling, I write this letter requesting your support in reversing that ruling.

This ruling is very short-sighted and significantly undermines Utah's fragile CNG economy. In my opinion, it is not in the public's best interest.

While I am typically very strongly free-market oriented, I also think there are certain areas in which the government must intervene in the greater public good. Some things the free market does not address very well, if at all. Air quality is one of those larger issues that only government-led initiatives can effectively address.

Left only to market forces, our already unhealthy air will only continue to deteriorate. Utah has made tremendous strides and spent hundreds of millions (if not billions) of dollars to provide alternative means of transportation to help relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality by investing in public transportation. While that certainly helps, it still leaves the automobile as the largest single contributor to the horrible air-quality conditions citizens along the Wasatch Front must deal with.

If every car in the area used CNG, our air quality problems would be significantly lessened. That is somewhere the normal free market will never take us. Without something to encourage the improvement of the refueling infrastructure while maintaining a price incentive to use CNG there will never be any significant increase in the use of CNG vehicles. Unfortunately, government is the only entity that can create the incentive to build the infrastructure.

Utah is in a unique position to show how forward-thinking leadership and a responsible government can involve the private sector and the driving public in providing a solution to our environmental problems. This ruling flies in the face of everything positive that has been done and the progress that has been made in this area.

Following your advice, for the last year I have been driving a natural gas-only Honda Civic. While economics played a large part in my decision, I have justified the inconvenience of poor pressure at filling stations and having to fill up nearly every day by telling myself I am doing my part by not contributing to the air quality problems in the area. I have tolerated the inconvenience and not installed a home refueling appliance because I don't see those as the solution to the larger problem of lack of refueling infrastructure. We need more people buying gas at the stations, not fewer.

Please continue to provide the type of forward-thinking leadership I have come to expect of you and intervene with the PSC and legislature to find ways to increase the use of Natural Gas Vehicles in the area.

Let's continue to make progress, not move backwards. I would appreciate a response detailing your position on this issue.

Sincerely,
Dan Follett