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July 17, 2018

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler
Office of the Administrator, Code 1101A
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

I am writing to share a bill I introduced in the Senate that would direct EPA to extend the same incentives that automakers receive to produce electric vehicles (EVs) to the production of natural gas vehicles (NGVs) as well. I urge you to use existing authorities to implement the parity sought by our bill administratively.

This legislation, the *Light-Duty Natural Gas Vehicle Parity Act of 2018*, would direct the EPA to amend regulations and policies to ensure the treatment of NGVs is equal to that of EVs in order to provide similar support for the commercialization of NGVs. Specifically, it calls for the EPA to apply the same incentives for NGV automakers as to those applied to EVs and remove eligibility-based design restrictions such as those imposed on dual-fueled NGVs (e.g., dual fuel range ratio requirement and “drive to empty”).

NGVs have the potential for broad adoption, particularly for pick-ups and other light-duty trucks. Natural gas and renewable natural gas will provide consumers with cost savings and more stable-priced fuel for the long-term, while spurring demand for domestically abundant natural gas and advancing our economic and energy independence objectives. While the current regulations strongly favor EVs, electric-powered pick-up trucks are technically challenged, whereas natural gas pick-ups are already available from several automakers and upfitters.

I am encouraged that you have expressed a commitment to achieving parity for treatment of natural gas passenger vehicles and electric vehicles. While I hope the *Light-Duty Natural Gas Vehicle Parity Act* will be enacted quickly, I urge you to include these incentives in the proposed rule that the EPA is developing with NHTSA for light-duty vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Inhofe", with a stylized, cursive script.

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

CC: Hon. Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget