

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
AT CHARLESTON
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10-12
By the Governor

WHEREAS, West Virginia recognizes the exceptional benefits and opportunities natural gas vehicles present to encourage an energy future utilizing domestic natural resources to fuel our State's and our nation's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia is fortunate to be blessed with substantial natural gas deposits, and is one of the leading producers of natural gas in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the world's foremost natural gas producers; however, our nation has not invested the resources necessary to develop a robust transportation infrastructure designed for vehicles fueled by natural gas; and

WHEREAS, natural gas fuels 12.7 million vehicles worldwide, but only approximately 124,000 of those vehicles are located in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia operates more than 6,500 vehicles fueled primarily by gasoline or diesel fuels blended from foreign oil, contributing to our nation's dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, utilization of natural gas vehicles by the State of West Virginia would support expansion of an alternative fuel market having the potential to provide a significant savings to the State; and

WHEREAS, school systems throughout the State could realize substantial savings by utilizing natural gas-fueled school buses; and

WHEREAS, in order for West Virginia to maximize the opportunities presented by the operation of natural gas-fueled vehicles, our State must collaborate with private industry to encourage construction of natural gas fueling stations and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, constructing natural gas fueling stations will not only allow the State and its political subdivisions to save hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in fuel costs, it will also help connect West Virginia to surrounding states' natural gas fueling infrastructure, thereby allowing travelers continuity in their excursions; and

WHEREAS, advancements in drilling and production technologies, coupled with substantial investments by natural gas producers, have increased the domestic supply of reliable, inexpensive natural gas to the point that conversion of diesel-fueled fleets to natural gas-fueled fleets gives rise to a policy issue that cannot be ignored and must be carefully analyzed by the State; and

WHEREAS, our great State is poised and ready to assess the feasibility of transitioning toward fueling vehicles with natural gas and developing a supporting infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EARL RAY TOMBLIN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that:

1. The Natural Gas Vehicle Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby constituted, the members of which shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor.

2. The members of the Task Force shall consist of the following persons who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Governor:

- (a) General Counsel, Office of the Governor;
- (b) Director of Public Policy, Office of the Governor;
- (c) Secretary, West Virginia Department of Commerce;
- (d) Secretary, West Virginia Department of Transportation;
- (e) Executive Director, West Virginia Office of Fleet Management;
- (f) Executive Director of Transportation, West Virginia Department of Education;
- (g) Fourteen (14) citizen members appointed by the Governor; and
- (h) Such additional members as the Governor, at his discretion, may from time to time appoint.

3. The citizen members of the Task Force shall be persons who have education, experience or specialized knowledge regarding the natural gas industry, alternative fuels, coal, and petroleum marketing, transportation, and safety.

4. Members of the Task Force may not designate individuals to serve in their place without the express consent of the Governor.

5. The Task Force shall have the following duties:

(a) Perform an analysis of the cost savings that could be realized by governmental entities that convert gasoline or diesel-fueled vehicles to natural gas-fueled vehicles;

(b) Perform a cost-benefit analysis between converting West Virginia's current fleet of State vehicles to a natural gas fueling system and purchasing original equipment manufacturer (OEM) vehicles fueled by natural gas;

(c) Research and analyze the potential for the State to operate pilot public access natural gas fueling stations;

(d) Communicate with executive agencies in sister states that are in the process of transitioning their fleets and encouraging infrastructure development for natural gas-fueled vehicles;

(e) Explore interest in partnerships with and among natural gas producers, infrastructure developers, vehicle manufacturers, and other industry leaders to expand natural gas fueling infrastructure and investing in natural gas fuel solutions;

(f) Examine options for modernizing the motor fuel excise tax to address natural gas vehicles; and

(g) Develop a communications strategy to educate the citizens of West Virginia about the economic, environmental, and safety benefits of operating vehicles fueled by natural gas.

6. The Task Force shall have all such other general powers and perform such other acts as deemed reasonably necessary and proper to carry out the aforementioned duties.

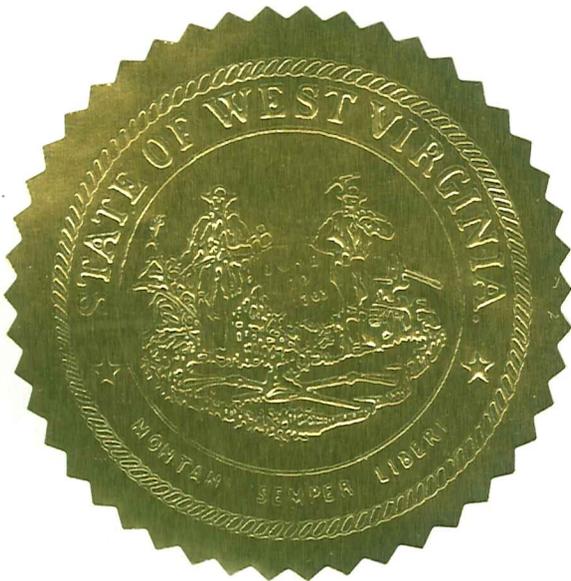
7. The Task Force shall hold regular meetings and shall conduct and regulate such meetings and other activities in accordance with the procedures it adopts at its first meeting, which meeting shall be scheduled and presided over by the chairperson designated by the Governor from among the members of the Task Force.

8. The Task Force may establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary and convenient to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order.

9. All members of the Task Force shall serve without salary, although the citizen members of the Task Force may seek reimbursement from the Office of the Governor for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred related to the official business of the Task Force in carrying out the provisions of this Executive Order.

10. The Task Force, and its subcommittees, shall report the status of their efforts under the mandates of this Executive Order to the Office of the Governor as they complete their delegated tasks, but in no event may they submit reports less frequently than semi-annually.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the nineteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve, and in the One Hundred Forty-Ninth year of the State.

Earl Ray Tomblin

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

Natalie Ellement

SECRETARY OF STATE