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## *House of Representatives* *Putting the Pedal to the Metal*

**HON. BOB FILNER**  
OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MR. FILNER:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 770, "Putting the Pedal to the Metal: Accelerating the Energy Independence of America" Act, legislation creating a broad tax credit for the production of alternative fuel vehicles.

Transportation accounts for about two-thirds of the oil consumption in the United States, and we are 97 percent dependent on oil for our transportation needs. If our nation is going to have a strategy for energy security, that strategy must begin with transportation fuels. As we all learned during the California energy crisis, any strategy for energy security has to be based in alternative sources of production, to ensure that we have we are never again held captive by one company or industry.

When enacted, this legislation will offer a tax credit for every dollar invested by companies towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. The credit will allow companies to take a credit equal to the percent of investment in the production of alternative fuel vehicles, so if a company spends 40% of their time and expense on producing alternative fuel vehicles, they would receive a 40% credit against its tax burden.

Hopefully, this will spur small companies and large companies alike, to move towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. This landmark legislation will help break the old cycle of automobile manufacturers failing to sufficiently invest in alternative fuel vehicle technology, because it was not profitable enough.

Many companies, large and small, are already in the business of producing alternative fuel vehicles, such as L3 Research, Inc. in San Diego. L3 Research Inc. has a prototype, the L3 "Enigma"-a hybrid-electric sports car. This is the world's first hybrid-electric sports car, faster than a Corvette, and it recharges from a common wall outlet. This is the kind of innovative, next-generation, vehicle production that will benefit from this legislation.

During his State of the Union address, President Bush rolled out an initiative to fund the development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. While I support this worthy goal, most experts estimate that fuel cell powered vehicles are a generation away.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to wait many years to support alternative fuel vehicles- it's time to put the pedal to the metal and accelerate the energy independence of America. Pass H.R. 770.

