

## POLICY POSITION

### INCREASE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS

#### BACKGROUND

The United States has the most comprehensive legislation of any nation aimed toward environmental protection and natural resources conservation. Environmental legislation is constantly undergoing modification, refinement and redirection. In 1990, Congress enacted amendments to the Clean Air Act which require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and individual states to implement new regulatory programs. Specifically, amendments of 1990 require states to develop implementation plans to reduce levels of ozone, carbon monoxide and other pollutants. Automobiles are the most significant source of these pollutants in urban areas. States which do not achieve compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments face consequences including loss of federal highway funds and other measures harmful to economic development. In addition, EPA has discretion to withhold grants to state and local pollution control agencies.

Increased use of alternative transportation fuels such as compressed natural gas, electric and methanol will contribute to reduced levels of air pollution. As a result of this increased use, alternative fuels can reduce the United States' dependence on imported energy sources and improve national energy security.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference urges its member states to develop legislation and support programs which encourage the increased use of alternative fuels in public fleets and by the private sector.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 11, 1992, Miami Beach, Florida.

Sponsored by: Delegate James F. Almand, Virginia

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