



## **Local Flexible Fuel Vehicle (FFV) Awareness Campaign Announced in Maryland**

Flexible Fuel Vehicle Club of America sets out to organize and encourage drivers of FlexFuel Vehicles (FFVs)

*Germantown, MD September 26, 2008:* The Flexible Fuel Vehicle Club of America (FlexFuel Vehicle Club) officially announced its first local FFV awareness campaign at the opening of the newest E85 refueling station in Germantown, Maryland. The FlexFuel Vehicle Club is the first consumer/user group dedicated to rally drivers around the cause of displacing crude oil imports with domestic renewable fuels like ethanol. Club Founder and President Burl Haigwood, a 30 year veteran of the ethanol and alternative fuels movement, helped launch the FlexFuel Vehicle Club with support from the Clean Fuels Foundation's *Ethanol Across America* education campaign.

Haigwood said, "We have received encouragement from [FFV] automobile manufacturers and dealers, fuel retailers, alternative fuel supporters, industry and government leaders interested in the continued development of ethanol and biofuels, and lots of concerned motorists. We have an FFV decaling and consumer education and outreach program aimed at every interested consumer and local business in the Germantown area that wants to help their community reduce their addition to oil. We are asking them to help us find the FFV owners and getting them to an E85 pump."

U.S. Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE), a member of the *Ethanol Across America* Advisory Board helped launch the group at the annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo that has been a rallying event for the renewable and clean energy communities for more than a decade. "At a time when our economy is feeling the weight of our dangerous dependence on imported oil, the Flexible Fuel Vehicle Club is a way to galvanize the millions and millions of ordinary Americans who are already fighting back," said Congressman Terry. "The use of domestic, renewable fuels like ethanol in high concentrations like E85 is a major weapon in this battle to stem the flow of foreign oil."

Congressman Terry added "Thanks to the Alternative Motor Fuels Act of 1988, signed 20 years ago, automakers have produced about seven million vehicles that can run on any combination of gasoline and up to 85 percent ethanol, with over 30 models, more will be coming available every day. But most FFV owners don't take advantage of higher percentage blends. Some don't realize they can use the alternative fuel. The FFV Club will change that as they will locate, educate, motivate, and activate these owners, and welcome in the new FFV buyers."

U.S. Congressman Jay Inslee (D-WA), also a member of the *Ethanol Across America* advisory board, is co-sponsoring a resolution with Congressman Terry recognizing the FlexFuel Vehicle Club and the importance educating consumers about their FFVs and the benefits of biofuels. "Much like the way that airplane research didn't end with the Wright brothers first flight on that Carolina beach, we're certain that corn ethanol will be the first of a long line of biofuels breakthroughs. A developed market for higher blends of ethanol will help create thousands of new jobs, advance the development of new cellulosic feedstocks, and accelerate advanced biofuel technologies," said U.S. Congressman Jay Inslee (D-WA.). Congress is putting Americans back in the driver's seat by supporting new vehicle and fuel choices," Inslee added. (*more...*)



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FlexFuel Vehicle Club members have access to information resources and opportunities to network through the club's Web site, [www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org](http://www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org). Haigwood also plans to take his 2003 factory-produced Dodge Caravan fueled by 85 percent ethanol, or E85, to public events around the Maryland area to seek out FFV owners and community leaders.

“When you consider the environmental costs of greenhouse gasses, the health care costs of pollution and the personal and financial costs of protecting oil resources in the Persian Gulf, the true price of gasoline is much greater than what Americans pay at the pump and far beyond what the country can afford,” said Haigwood. “The energy business has become personal. It has an impact on every person every day. The majority of Americans want to do something, want to be involved, but they don't know where to start – until now.”

Haigwood said one of the fundamental objectives of the club is to locate the drivers who have FFVs and encourage them to use higher blends of ethanol. This is the only way to increase the availability of new fuel choices and encourage their local gasoline retailers to provide E85. When oil companies pass on the tax incentives they receive for blending ethanol, E85 can be significantly less expensive than gasoline.

According to Merrill Lynch the use of ethanol has already lowered the price of gasoline and crude oil by 15%. That means consumers are already saving 50 cents per gallon on gasoline and that saved the world \$619 billion on their crude oil bill. Haigwood says he also applauds Chrysler, Ford and GM's pledge to make more FFVs and their efforts to accelerate advanced cellulosic technologies to create even better ethanol-based fuels. We need to make sure we take advantage of this low-risk, no-cost opportunity to work with FFV owners and don't try to leap frog to more costly, ambitious, and longer term alternative fuel programs like natural gas, all electric, hydrogen. We need to start now while other technologies are still being developed.

Today is a monumental day for Maryland, DC and Virginia as it was announced the region will receive nearly 20 new E85 stations in the coming months. Next week there will be a groundbreaking on a new ethanol plant being built in Hopewell Virginia. The region is starting to recognize the economic, environmental and energy security benefits FFVs and E85 have to offer. When all is said, and the press is gone, the FlexFuel Vehicle Club will be here to help consumers carry on – the fight for vehicle and fuel choice.

For more information, contact: Burl Haigwood, FFV Club President at 202-441-2400/  
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[www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org](http://www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org).

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