



ANNISE D. PARKER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

June 22, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

I am writing in strong support of efforts to advance the wide-scale deployment of electric vehicles and to develop the infrastructure needed to support them. Houston has already made major commitments to electric vehicles, including partnerships with Nissan, to assist in the introduction and expansion of electric vehicles in the Houston area, and Reliant Energy, to procure electric vehicles and chargers for the city fleet. Houston is also working with city leaders on an Electrification Roadmap for the Houston-Galveston area. City leaders inside and outside of government understand the important role that electric cars can play in the city's clean energy future. Now, Houston is ready to take the next step.

As you know, on May 27, Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced S. 3442, The Electric Vehicle Deployment Act. This legislation creates geographic areas that would compete to be selected as electrification "deployment communities" in which targeted, temporary financial incentives are employed in support of electric vehicles and infrastructure. Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA) introduced a companion bill in the House.


As the mayor of a city that has already taken first steps toward more widespread use of electric vehicles, I believe that this approach—incentives to deploy all of the elements of an electrified transportation system simultaneously in select geographic areas—represents a path forward that is fiscally responsible while still minimizing the risk of electric cars being relegated to a niche market for enthusiasts. Mayors and other local leaders across the country already understand the benefits of electrification, both to their communities and to the nation as a whole. I predict that many regions will compete to be selected as the first deployment communities should this legislation become law. That competition alone represents a crucial step forward, as communities that have fought to provide the most fertile ground for electrification will certainly benefit even if they are not chosen in the first round.

Houston has long been the energy capital of the world and we are proud of our history. It makes sense that we now become the alternative energy capital of the world, to combat climate change, promote renewable energy to meet our growing demand, and take advantage of America's newest, most cutting edge technologies. Electrification represents a crucial step forward towards this vision.

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We stand ready to help America take the next step and intend to be first in line when Congress passes this enormously beneficial legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annise Parker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Annise D. Parker
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
The Honorable John Cornyn