



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

May 22, 2017

Re: Draft Interested Party Rules for new Alternative Fuel Vehicle Grant (AFV) Program

Dear Interested Parties:

The Office of Environmental Education is in the process of developing a set of rules to implement a new grant program for converting or replacing diesel- and gasoline-powered large vehicles to run on alternative fuels. The draft rules closely mirror the program requirements enacted in the 2016 statute that authorizes the grant program. The Office of Environmental Education has reviewed comments and suggestions received during Early Stakeholder Outreach in March, 2017, and drafted language for the following three rules:

3745-49-53 Definitions – alternative fuel vehicles

3745-49-54 Permitted uses, eligibility and prioritization

3745-49-55 Grant administration

Rule Background:

New legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 2016 authorizes Ohio EPA to create an alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) conversion grant program. A total of \$5 million is available for grants to encourage the purchase of new large trucks and other vehicles with a gross vehicle rating of at least 26,000 pounds, that run on compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, or liquid petroleum gas, including bi-fueled or dual-fueled trucks that can run on both an alternative fuel and on gasoline or diesel fuel. Grants can also cover the cost of converting one or more eligible traditional fuel vehicles into alternative fuel vehicles.

The statute set the maximum grant amount allowed per vehicle, the limit on the total amount of grant funding allowed to a recipient, and a requirement that that over half the miles the new AFV is driven be within the state of Ohio. This review is being conducted to seek stakeholder input on the draft rules, and to help prospective grant applicants and equipment vendors understand what the grants will support, what information will be requested in the grant application, and how funding will be allocated to applicants whose projects are deemed eligible by Ohio EPA on a first-come, first-served basis. The Office of Environmental Education is seeking input from you on these draft rules by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 21, 2017**.

As part of the rulemaking process, Ohio EPA is required to prepare and submit a Business Impact Analysis (BIA) form to Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office. Ohio EPA is also making this form available at this time for public review and comment.

You may view the draft rules at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131365076-alternative-fuel-vehicle-grants>, or call (614) 644-2873 to obtain a copy. Please submit your comments to:

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