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Contact: Rachele Klein
208.283.0624
rklein@republicservices.com

Transportation Industry Leaders Form Idaho Natural Gas Users Association
Group Aims to Promote Natural Gas Vehicles and Support Policies to Grow Wider Adoption

(BOISE) – Use of natural gas as a transportation fuel is on the rise all over the world, and businesses and elected officials in Idaho are taking notice. Whether organizations convert their fleets for the cost savings, domestic abundance of the fuel, or to reduce their impact on our changing climate, the positive attributes are paying off. Members of the newly formed Idaho Natural Gas Vehicles Users Association (INGVUA) hope to educate Idaho companies with vehicle fleets about the benefits of CNG and hope to persuade the Legislature to consider vehicle tax credits—as existed under a previous statute—for companies that decide to make the switch.

“Republic Services operates 113 heavy-duty natural gas trucks in the Treasure Valley every day. We felt it was important to lead by example—protecting our fresh air and the health of our customers,” said Dave Fisher, General Manager of Republic Services. “That we were able to save the company, and by extension, contain municipal customers rates was an added bonus. We want to encourage other companies in Idaho to make decisions that are good for our citizens, and the environment.”

Natural gas is an inexpensive, plentiful domestic source of fuel that emits far less carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrous oxide (NO_x) than diesel and gasoline. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming while NO_x and associated particulate matter cause major health risks.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified the I-84 and I-86 corridors as air sheds in critical danger of being placed into the category of non-attainment due to excessive pollution generated by diesel- and gasoline-powered vehicles and other factors. A non-attainment status designation would require Idaho to produce a state plan for reducing air pollution that could entail severe restrictions on businesses and our transportation infrastructure. Increasing the number of vehicles that run on natural gas, rather than gasoline or diesel, would help mitigate and remediate Idaho’s air quality challenges.

Included in the recently passed Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of Congress is the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program, a mandate for states such as Idaho to invest a portion of its federal funding to reduce fine particulate matter. The CMAQ includes a provision for natural gas-fueled vehicles.

The Idaho Natural Gas Vehicle Users Association will work with community, industry and elected leaders to protect Idaho’s air quality and reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign fuel sources.

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