

LARSON TEST-DRIVES FUEL CELL CAR

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EAST HARTFORD—U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today test-drove a fuel cell-powered sport utility vehicle in a testing area on Pratt & Whitney/United Technologies Research Center property in East Hartford. The Hyundai Santa Fe SUV that Larson drove was powered by fuel cells made at International Fuel Cells in South Windsor, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation.

"A long-term solution is needed to ensure the United States can generate and rely upon long-lasting, environmentally safe energy resources," said Larson. "Fuel cells have emerged as the answer to the energy needs of the United States. The fuel cell car performed as well, if not better, than a normal car, and isn't affected by high gasoline prices, or environmentally harmful emissions. This technology is developed right in our own backyards here in Connecticut, and can also be a powerful contribution to economic growth and job creation in the region."

The United States imported an average of nearly 11 million barrels of oil per day in 1999 from foreign countries to meet our domestic energy needs, totaling nearly 4 billion during all of that year. Even at the modest average price of \$15 per barrel, that adds up to more than \$60 billion spent on foreign oil. One billion dollars represents approximately 1/60 of the nation's total expenditures on foreign oil in 1999 and 1/120 of expenditures in 2000. With the average price of a barrel of crude oil at \$30 last year and with average daily imports remaining roughly the same, America's expenditures to purchase foreign oil increased to more than \$120 billion last year.

According to UTC, the vehicle gets the equivalent of 50-60 miles per gallon.

Two weeks ago, Larson appeared with U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd at a press conference at International Fuel Cells in South Windsor to announce the introduction of legislation which calls for a \$1 billion investment in fuel cells to further advance the technology as an alternative energy policy strategy. Larson has also supported legislation that would provide tax credits for the purchase of fuel cells.

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