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CHAIRMAN JIM SAXTON

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW STUDY SEES BRIGHT POTENTIAL IN ALTERNATIVE FUELS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Alternative fuels and new technologies offer many ways to improve fuel economy over the long run, according to a new Joint Economic Committee study released today by Chairman Jim Saxton. According to the new study, *The Promise of Alternative Automotive Fuels and Technology*, “the competition to our current way of powering vehicles will come from alternative systems of automotive technology and fuel supply.” The study examines a range of alternative fuels and how emerging technologies may facilitate their use.

“For over a century the four-stroke, petroleum-fueled engine has powered the overwhelming majority of cars, but now innovations such as electric hybrids, and the potential for alternative fuels are starting to lead to change,” Saxton said. “While ethanol and biofuels offer some competition to petroleum in the medium term, I remain optimistic that further technological developments will ultimately lead to a breakthrough that could significantly lessen dependence on oil over the longer term.

“In addition to the range of fuels under development, advances in electronics and other areas of automotive engineering are leading to more efficient drive trains, including various configurations for placement of transmissions. I am also encouraged that some major manufacturers continue to make progress on hydrogen fuel cell technology, including the production of experimental vehicles that will be leased to consumers in coming years,” Saxton concluded.

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