

**May 10, 2011**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- In front of the U.S. Capitol today, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) held a press conference with his constituents and Pittsburgh residents Murry and Cindy Gerber on the promise of natural gas vehicles. For the past two weeks, the Gerbers have driven a natural gas-fueled Hummer cross country -- from Palm Springs, CA to New York City -- to raise awareness about the capabilities and benefits of natural gas vehicles.

**“The Gerbers’ cross country road trip highlights the potential of natural gas vehicles to provide American families with more affordable transportation options,”** Congressman Altmire said. **“I am working to facilitate the production and use of natural gas vehicles because doing so will help to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bolster our economy, especially in western Pennsylvania. Given the Marcellus Shale’s vast natural gas reserves, our region will directly benefit from the increased use of this alternative fuel.”**

**“We chose a natural gas-converted Hummer for this tour because so many people consider this vehicle to be the ultimate ‘dirty’ vehicle,”** Murry Gerber said. **“But in reality it’s not the vehicle that causes clean air problems, it’s the fuel. America has abundant resources of clean-burning natural gas. That means we can be less dependent on foreign resources such as oil—and create more jobs here at home.”**

According to the national organization Natural Gas Vehicles for America, on average natural gas costs one-third less than conventional gasoline. There are approximately 120,000 natural gas vehicles in the United States today and more than 30 manufacturers produce natural gas vehicles and engines.

As part of his ongoing efforts to increase America’s energy independence, in April, Congressmen Altmire signed on as an original cosponsor of the New Alternative Transportation to Give America Solutions (NAT GAS) Act (H.R. 1380). This legislation would facilitate the production, purchase and use of natural gas vehicles through tax credits and increased research and development. Specifically, this legislation would allow an income tax credit for motor vehicles powered by natural gas; provide tax credits for the manufacturing of these vehicles; and make grants available to manufacturers that develop engines that reduce

emissions and improve performance. It would also extend tax credits to help spur the development of more natural gas refueling stations.