



T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 10.2211 – 10.24.11

Total of 1 Placements

- Print: 1

Coverage Summary

The Houston Chronicle's Fuel Fix blog has a piece on upcoming Senate legislation from a 14-member bipartisan group seeking to encourage purchases of natural-gas buses and trucks as part of an upcoming energy plan designed to reduce foreign-oil dependence. Senator Ken Conrad (D-N.D.) is quoted stating that the legislation draws inspiration from the ideas of Pickens.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Senators seek Pickens-style incentives for nat gas buses and trucks** – *Houston Chronicle, Fuel Fix blog* – 10/24/11 <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/10/24/senators-to-push-pickens-style-incentives-for-natural-gas-buses-and-trucks-top-democrat-says/>

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Senators seek Pickens-style incentives for nat gas buses and trucks – *Houston Chronicle, Fuel Fix blog* – 10/24/11

By Puneet Kollipara

ARLINGTON, Va. — A bipartisan group of senators will seek to encourage purchases of natural-gas buses and trucks as part of an upcoming energy plan designed to reduce foreign-oil dependence, a key

Democrat said today.

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., part of a 14-member bipartisan group working on the plan, said the idea if implemented would help reduce the amount of oil the United States imports. Conrad said he finds “a lot of merit” in some of the ideas of T. Boone Pickens, a Texas oilman and financier who has pushed natural-gas vehicles as part of his eponymous energy plan.

“He recognizes the fundamental problem that we are sending so much money abroad that could be kept here,” Conrad told an energy conference in Arlington. “Clearly if you look at major fleets, bus fleets or truck fleets, to the extent we can put some part of them on natural gas it would be an enormous savings to our economy.”

Pickens has pushed a proposal for providing billions of dollars in tax credits to encourage people and businesses to buy natural-gas vehicles.

Another focus of the Group of 14 will be a provision meant to boost electricity transmission, Conrad told the University of North Dakota’s annual Air Quality Conference without offering specifics.

Conrad, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, has made reducing oil imports a major part of his platform for boosting the economy. His speech focused on his own separate piece of energy legislation that he said would reduce dependence on foreign energy, develop domestic oil and gas and reduce fossil-fuel emissions.

His own proposal, known as the FUEL Act, would boost offshore oil-and-gas production and provide funding for clean-energy deployment and research. It would also give billions in federal incentives for alternative-fuel development, electric and fuel-efficient vehicles, carbon capture and sequestration, and energy efficiency.

Though the government spending amount may add up, the bill would save money that would otherwise go abroad, Conrad said.

“When you compare it to the \$300 billion we’re sending abroad a year to buy energy, it strikes me as a pretty good investment,” Conrad said.

Conrad told reporters afterward his FUEL Act and the Group of 14 plan probably won’t come up this year because Congress is focusing most of its time on tackling the federal deficit.

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