

WASHINGTON- Congressman Lee Terry, who sits on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, joined Congressman Jose Serrano (D-NY) in introducing legislation that would deploy 20,000 electric vehicles for the U.S. Postal Service. The bill, the American Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Act or "e-Drive", H.R. 4399 was introduced yesterday and cosponsored by Congressmen Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Dan Maffei (D-NY), Steve Israel (D-NY) and Charles Gonzalez (D-TX).

"This legislation will provide a much-needed boost to the development and use of electric drive vehicles on a nation-wide scale," said Congressman Terry. "It will stimulate private sector investment in electric drive vehicles, power trains and new battery technologies. It also addresses Smart Grid integration through new Vehicle-to-Grid technologies. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this forward-thinking approach to less dependence on fossil fuels and reducing emissions from mobile sources."

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Details of the bill:

- Establishes program in the Department of Energy to develop electric drive vehicles for use fleet-wide by the U.S. Postal Service
- Two-phase program to develop and test the technologies and then move into a nationwide deployment
 - Goal is to stimulate private industry of these technologies, including smart-grid integration that will allow Vehicle-to-Grid ("V2G") delivery of excess electricity
 - Goal is to manufacture, test, and deliver at least 20,000 vehicles for use by the U.S. Postal Service
- Authorizes appropriations for awards to be made by the Secretary of Energy to develop new, highly efficient electric drive vehicles
- Creates a "Postal Sustainability Fees Fund" from which the appropriated funds will be awarded to applicants who successfully compete for funding under the program

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