

Castle Takes First Ride on UD Fuel Cell Bus Funded by Federal Dollars He & Carper Secured -- April 9, 2007

Newark, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today joined UD President David Roselle and Senator Carper along with other members of the University of Delaware for the inaugural ride of the University's fuel cell hybrid bus. The ongoing bus project, which has been partially funded by the federal government, achieved a milestone today as it took its first ride around the parking lot of the Bob Carpenter Center.

"I am continually saying that the University of Delaware is at the forefront of groundbreaking research, particularly in the field of alternative sources of energy and today's celebration is evidence of that fact. That is why Tom and I partnered to make this a top priority for funding through the appropriations cycle," Castle said.

"The University's buses provide a much needed transportation mode on campus and with fuel cell powered technology, the students, staff, and even members of the community can breathe easier knowing the University will offer a quieter, cleaner mode of transportation. I appreciate the dedication of the University of Delaware to finding methods for alternative, fuel efficient, and environmentally friendly methods of travel which will hopefully one day be reproduced on a global scale," Castle said.

In FY 2004 and FY 2006, Castle and Carper secured \$1.7 million and \$1 million through the Department of Transportation Appropriations Bill which has been used to design, build and demonstrate the fuel cell bus. They also secured \$6.082 million for the project in the Highway Authorization Bill which is being distributed over a five year period. Finally, for Fiscal Year 2008, they have requested \$2 million to develop fueling and refueling infrastructure, ensure efficiency in both hot and cold environments, monitor the durability and reliability of the technology and to develop an educational program.

Accompanying the federal funding for research Castle is helping to secure for Delaware, he is also co-sponsoring legislation in the House of Representatives which will work to start tackling the problem of global warming. The Fuel Economy Reform Act would increase CAFE standards for cars, SUV's, minivans and pickup trucks to 27.5 miles per gallon by model year 2012 and 35 miles per gallon by 2018. Additionally, Castle has co-sponsored the Climate Stewardship Act which implements a cap and trade regulatory structure now to curb greenhouse gas emissions for electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors.

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