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Meeting a Transportation Need while helping end the US Addiction to Oil-derived Vehicle Fuels, VPG, with its MV-1, offers a winner

Mayor Mike Bloomberg has pointed proudly to the PlaNYC sustainability plan that he launched in 2007 designed to make New York a leading sustainable city by 2030, with goals including reducing the health threatening emissions and greenhouse gases from our transportation sector. This includes the 13,000 taxis that are a vital form of public transit for millions of New Yorkers.

Today, a new innovative company, The Vehicle Production Group LLC (VPG), has stepped forward and offered the Mayor, the Taxi and Limousine Commission, and our City a big gift ó one that we at Energy Vision, a national nonprofit environmental organization, believe the City should embrace: a new purpose built vehicle, called the MV-1, that is a four-way winner:

- First and foremost, the MV-1 stands to improve the quality of life significantly for 60,000 New Yorkers: those ó including many veterans to whom we owe a great deal ó who are disabled or wheelchair bound and have needed, but who have not had up to now, a safe, quiet vehicle in which to get around. The MV-1 can also just pick up regular passengers or groups of up to five. It offers this flexibility but, at the same time, it will do even more ó
- It can improve air quality in our City. Compared to the City's more than 8000 gasoline-powered taxis, it virtually eliminates the lung-choking particulate (soot) emissions and cuts nitrogen oxide emissions by 60 to 80%. It also emits 30% fewer greenhouse gases.
- It addresses the looming sustainability issue of US dependence on foreign oil because this taxi is powered 100% by domestically- plentiful natural gas, and there are sufficient natural gas stations in the City at which this vehicle, which goes almost 300 miles on one tankful, can refuel. (In the foreseeable future the MV-1 will also be able to run on an ever better gas fuel, the "renewable" form of natural gas (called RNG) made from wastes, a fuel already in commercial use in Europe.)



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ic benefit. The CNG fueled MV-1 costs about \$49,000 to buy might bring this price down. However, because natural gas fuel is at least \$1 per gallon cheaper than gasoline, this taxi, estimated to go about 70,000 miles a year and consume 5,000 gallons of fuel, would see at least \$5,000 a year in fuel savings -- \$25,000 in five years.

Putting 1,000 MV-1s on our streets would help serve the need of the disabled whose needs should be addressed in any world class city. It would contribute to improved air quality for City residents and mean greater energy security. Such a fleet of vehicles would reduce the City's dependence on foreign oil by 5 million gallons a year and would reap fuel cost savings of \$5 million.

We congratulate VPG which saw a real need and formed a partnership of industry leaders who invested their knowledge and resources to come up with the MV-1. It deserves a place on the streets of New York and of many others cities.

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Energy Vision is a New York-based, national non-profit organization that analyzes and promotes ways to make a swift transition to the clean, petroleum-free transportation fuels of the future.

For more information on Energy Vision, visit our website: www.energy-vision.org, or contact: Energy Vision, 138 E 13th Street, NY NY 10003 Tel: 212 228-0225 Although ta