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Governor Huntsman, Questar announce Natural Gas Corridor

Orem, Utah – Utah Governor Jon Huntsman today announced plans to increase the state's natural gas vehicle fueling infrastructure during a press conference at a Sinclair-branded station in Orem that sells compressed natural gas.

The announcement comes on the heels of Huntsman's State of the State address two weeks ago when he designated Interstate 15 (I-15) from Idaho to Arizona as a natural gas vehicle corridor. The state has one of the best models for fueling NGVs and it's about to improve.

"I'm here to reiterate the call I issued during the State of the State address 2 weeks ago," Governor Huntsman said. "If we are to provide energy security for our country and cleaner air for our children, we must first take steps in providing broad access to this clean, affordable, locally-produced fuel."

Larger compressors will be placed at heavy-use CNG stations along the Wasatch Front to meet NGV fueling demand. These improvements will double the fueling capacity along this section of I-15, and two new stations will be added to the system in Beaver and Washington counties.

Today, the state and utility own and operate 25 NGV fueling stations that are open to the public.

"Natural gas is clean, abundant, affordable – and in Utah's case, 'home grown,'" said Ron Jibson, President and CEO of Questar Corp. utility subsidiary, Questar Gas. "Governor Huntsman's vision puts our state at the forefront of 21st Century energy policy. There's big, unmet demand for CNG (compressed natural gas) in our state and across the country. The governor's plan helps overcome the market's 'Catch-22' – consumers won't convert to CNG until the filling stations get built; the stations don't get built until consumers convert to CNG."

Americans use more than 22 trillion cubic feet of natural gas per year. It's estimated there are nearly 350 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Utah and surrounding states. Currently, natural gas for NGVs sells for 88 cents per gallon in Utah.

Demand for natural gas as a vehicle fuel has quadrupled during 2008. Natural gas volumes for NGVs increased from 100,000 gallons per month to 400,000 gallons per month. It is estimated that there are between 5,000 and 8,000 NGVs on Utah's roads.

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Utah's I-15 NGV Corridor

