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Hearing :: 5/17/2006 :: Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles: Legislation to Promote Research and Development

Testimony By Dr. Cliff Ricketts

Professor of Agricultural Education, School of Agribusiness and Agriscience
Middle Tennessee State University
(Murfreesboro, TN)

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Dr. Cliff Ricketts is a true innovator - a "garage innovator," as Ranking Member Bart Gordon likes to call him. Dr. Ricketts has spent the past 30 years as a professor of agribusiness and agriscience at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon (left) and Dr. Cliff Ricketts discuss Ricketts' work with alternative-fuel vehicles prior to a May 17 hearing of the House Science Committee's Energy Subcommittee. Gordon invited Ricketts, acting director of MTSU's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, to testify as an expert witness on emerging energy technologies.

Click on the image at right to read Mr. Gordon's announcement.

He has held the land speed record for hydrogen vehicles at the Bonneville Salt Flats for 15 years and has experimented with a variety of electric hybrid and bio-based fueled vehicles. He's also worked with solar energy arrays and has a 10 kilowatt solar array banking electricity with the local electric supplier (the Tennessee Valley Authority) to charge his own hybrid vehicle and produce hydrogen from water through electrolysis to operate his own internal combustion automobile.



MTSU Professor Cliff Ricketts (right) shares the witness table with Dr. Mark Duvall of the Electric Power Research Institute while testifying on plug-in hybrid vehicles before the Subcommittee on Energy of the House Science Committee.
Click on the image at left for Rep. Gordon's comments on Dr. Ricketts' testimony.

As he's fond of saying, "the only two sources of energy to run my vehicles are sun and water." Science Democrats were pleased to welcome Dr. Ricketts to the Committee to lend his expertise in the area of alternative fuel vehicles.