

SCREWED BY DOE: APTERA

Aptera Car Company Targeted and Shafted For Being Too Innovative

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H.R. 1382: Innovative Vehicle Act

111th Congress
2009-2010

Summaries

Congressional Research Service Summary

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3/9/2009--Introduced.

Innovative Vehicle Act - Amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to include: (1) ultra efficient vehicles within the meaning of "advanced technology vehicle"; (2) ultra efficient vehicle manufacturers as eligible recipients of advanced vehicles manufacturing facility funding awards; (3) facilities for the manufacture of ultra efficient vehicles among facilities that are given priority for such awards; and (4) a firm that manufactures ultra efficient vehicles or components of such vehicles within the meaning of "covered firm." Defines "ultra efficient vehicle" to mean a fully closed compartment vehicle designed to carry at least two adult passengers that achieves: (1) at least 75 miles per gallon while operating on gasoline or diesel fuel; or (2) the equivalent while operating as a hybrid electric-gasoline or electric-diesel vehicle or as a fully electric vehicle. Requires the Secretary of Energy to reconsider applications for assistance under the advanced technology vehicles manufacturing incentive program that were timely filed but rejected because the vehicles to which the proposal related were ultra efficient vehicles and not advanced technology vehicles.

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application for less than \$3.5 billion in loans Feb. 16, about six weeks after Marchionne told reporters at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, "You ask yourself whether it's worth it -- that's the question I keep on asking myself."

In January, the department canceled a loan commitment of \$730 million to OAO Severstal (SVST), Russia's second-largest steelmaker, saying the company had done much of the work for which it had requested the loan in 2009.

Fisker Automotive Inc., which was awarded \$529 million in loans in April 2010, last month halted work on the Wilmington, Delaware, auto factory where it planned to produce its first U.S.-made plug-in electric vehicle. It disclosed that the Energy Department had blocked access to most of its loan money since May because of unmet milestones.

Taxpayer Interests

Aptera Motors Inc., a California electric-car company supported by Representative Darrell Issa, chairman of the U.S. House committee leading a probe of the department's loan programs, closed in December after it couldn't get private financing to match a \$150 million conditional loan commitment from the Energy Department.

The department is proceeding with loan application reviews carefully even as markets for private capital improve, Chu said.

"We're continuing to look at the loans and process the loans," Chu told reporters on March 1. "In all the loans, we are certainly committed to looking out after the taxpayer money. This is a very fundamental part of this. While we were asked through the Congress to invest in innovative new technologies, we also have to balance that with looking out after the taxpayer money."

Ford, Nissan

The Energy Department has awarded \$8.4 billion from the vehicle-manufacturing loan program since 2009 to companies including Nissan Motor Co. (7201), which sells the Leaf plug-in car; Tesla Motors Inc. (TSLA), maker of the electric Roadster; and Ford Motor Co. (F), which last week said its plug-in Focus was certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer the equivalent of 105 miles (169 kilometers) per gallon of gasoline.

Bright wanted to benefit from Obama's push to buy more energy-efficient vehicles for the U.S. government fleet, Donoughe said. The company planned to manufacture vehicles at a closed AM General LLC plant in Indiana and had the support of Senator Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat, and Democratic and Republican Congress members from Indiana, according to letters provided by the Energy Department.

"It's unfortunate that more companies have not been approved, but we are looking at options to ensure that the initiative will continue to help manufacturers create American jobs," Stabenow, who helped create the program, said in an e-mailed statement.

'Disband It'

Obama, who has set 2015 for all light-duty vehicles bought for the U.S. fleet will be alternative-fuel, on March 1 said in a speech in Nashua, New Hampshire, that by that year, all vehicle purchases will be of "fuel efficient" cars and trucks.

Energy Department staff were in Bright's offices as recently as last month, spending three days reviewing the operations for the loan, Donoughe said, estimating the agency spent as much as \$10 million reviewing the application, which was submitted in December 2008.

By the fourth offer, the loan terms "were so one-sided to make the applicant say 'I can't meet those terms so we'll go away,'" Donoughe said. "They kept ratcheting up the terms to the point at which we just couldn't abide by them."

Chu today is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at a conference on fuel-efficient technologies for commercial vehicles. The speech will be in Indianapolis, less than an hour's drive from Anderson, [Indiana](#), where Bright plans to wind down operations and look for new jobs for its workers.

In my mind, not only should they close the program, they should take the whole lot of the

Aptera, an electric vehicle start-up company based in California that worked to bring its 2e three-wheeler to market, **ceased operations in December** after failing to meet preconditions of a federal loan.

The Energy Department's loan program was allocated \$25 billion by Congress in 2008. About \$8 billion has been distributed, most recently in 2010 to the **Vehicle Production Group**, a company developing a wheelchair-accessible car that would run on compressed natural gas.

The Energy Department declined to respond to the specific charges made in the Bright executives' letter. In a prepared statement, Damien LaVera, a spokesman, said:

"We understand that this is a difficult day for Bright Automotive and their workers. Over the last three years, the department has worked with the company to try to negotiate a deal that supported their business while protecting the taxpayers. In the end, we were not able to come to an agreement on terms that would protect the taxpayers."

AUTOPIA

evs and hybrids

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Aptera Collapse: How & Why It Happened, A Complete Chronology ... DoE rejects **Aptera's** ATVM loan application within three days because three-wheelers are not ...

greencarreports.com/news/1070490_aptera-collapse-how-why-it-h...

[Inside Aptera's Troubles: Part II - Gas 2](#)

Inside **Aptera's** Troubles: Part II. ... inside and out of **Aptera** over the years and has been able ... the ongoing issues and really **screwed** them ...

gas2.org/2009/12/21/inside-aptera-troubles-part-ii/

[Aptera Facing Difficulties - Small Vehicle Resource Blog](#)

The **DOE screwed Aptera** and they had to get the President to sign a bill ordering the **DOE** to stop screwing them.

 smallvehicleresource.com/blog/2009/11/19/aptera-facing-difficulties/

[Aptera Motors - Wikipedia](#)

Aptera Motors was an American startup company seeking to manufacture high-efficiency road vehicles. Formerly known as Accelerated Composites, the company was based in ...

 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aptera_Motors

[Aptera officially resubmits application for DOE loan - Autoblog](#)

Aptera 2e final design rendering - Click above to enlarge. ... **Aptera** officially resubmits application for **DOE** loan. facebook; twitter; google+; email ...

 autoblog.com/2009/10/30/aptera-officialy-resubmits-app...

[Aptera to go to Washington to fight for DOE loans - Autoblog](#)

Aptera to go to Washington to fight for **DOE** loans. ... **Aptera** wants a piece of the \$25 billion Department of Energy Advanced Technology Vehicle ...

 autoblog.com/2009/03/13/aptera-to-go-to-washington-to-...

[Obama Says Aptera's 3-Wheeler Is a Car | WIRED](#)

Obama Says **Aptera's 3-Wheeler** Is a Car. The teardrop-shaped **Aptera 2e** electric three-wheeler has been officially deemed a car in the eyes of the Department of Energy.

 <https://wired.com/2009/10/aptera-doe/>

[Aptera: no production vehicles until we get funding, from the ...](#)

Aptera 2e three-wheeler deemed a car by the **DoE**, eligible for funding

 <https://engadget.com/2011/02/07/aptera-no-production-vehicles-...>


[Aptera 2e three-wheeler deemed a car by the DoE, eligible for ...](#)

For a time, it looked **Aptera** might be missing out on the US Department of Energy's funding bonanza for energy-efficient vehicles due to its car's three ...

 <https://engadget.com/2009/10/30/aptera-2e-three-wheeler-deemed...>

[EV Startup Aptera Motors Pulls the Plug | WIRED](#)

EV Startup **Aptera Motors** Pulls the Plug. Southern California electric vehicle startup **Aptera Motors** is out of time, out of money and out of luck.

 <https://wired.com/2011/12/aptera-motors-closes/>


[Aptera is back, with resurrection of the three wheel electric ...](#)

He said that the **Aptera** founders were pushed out when the Board hired people from Detroit who wanted to go after **DOE** ... **screwed** its dealers and delivered a ...

 visforvoltage.org/forum/12293-aptera-back-resurrection-thre...

[Gigaom | Door Opens for Aptera, 3-Wheelers to Grab DOE Green ...](#)

It's a new world for **Aptera** in its quest for federal funds today. ... Door Opens for **Aptera**, 3-Wheelers to Grab **DOE** Green Car Funds. by Josie Garthwaite Oct 16 ...

 <https://gigaom.com/2009/10/16/door-opens-for-aptera-3-whee...>

[Has the Dept of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle ...](#)

... the Department of Energy explicitly was soliciting ... **Aptera** \$150 million Shut ... the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program appears to ...

 thetruthaboutcars.com/2013/05/has-the-dept-of-energys-advanced-...

[Tesla Motors Ending Production of its Famed Roadster - Gas 2](#)

Tesla Motors Ending Production of its Famed ... their funding and technology efforts and **screwed** up **Aptera**, ... the **DOE** loaned even though they do ...

 gas2.org/2010/01/30/tesla-motors-ending-production...


[Where Are Those DOE Retooling Loans Anyway?](#)

With a mere \$9b awarded so far, the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan program is a long way from fulfilling its \$25b pr

 thetruthaboutcars.com/2010/03/where-are-those-doe-retooling-loa...

[Gigaom | Tesla IPO: Electric Car Startup Files for \\$100M ...](#)

Tesla IPO: Electric Car Startup Files for \$100M ... their funding and technology efforts and **screwed** up **Aptera**, ... for the **DOE** loaned even though they do not ...

 <https://gigaom.com/2010/01/29/tesla-ipo-electric-car-startup...>

[Tesla Motors Files \\$100 Million IPO - Tech Trader Daily ...](#)

They only got their ATVM money because the two local guys from the **DOE** big accounting ... funding and technology efforts and **screwed** up **Aptera**, ...

 blogs.barrons.com/techtraderdaily/2010/01/29/tesla-motors-f...

DOE Corruption Ran Deep - THE LONDON WORLD WIDE NEWS

DOE misdeeds screw up new **DOE** staff beyond belief. So the **DOE** has billions of dollars stuck in this bank account. The federal law says you can only use the money to ...

 londonworldwide.com/doe-misdeeds-screw-up-new-doe-staff-beyon...