

Rep. Peter Welch supported and the House passed Tuesday evening the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act.

H.R.2751, of which Welch is a cosponsor, passed on a vote of 298 to 119.

The bill authorizes a one-year 'Cash for Clunkers' program, which will provide consumers with cash incentives to trade older, fuel-inefficient cars and trucks for newer models. The legislation will help struggling automakers and car dealerships by creating increased demand for vehicles while cutting greenhouse gas emissions and reducing dependence upon foreign oil.

The one-year program, which would start July 1<sup>st</sup>, could provide up to a million consumers with vouchers worth between \$3,500 and \$4,500, depending upon the increase in fuel efficiency reaped by the trade-in.

"This innovative program will help struggling automakers and dealerships make it through these tough economic times. At the same time, it will help consumers afford new vehicles and make our air cleaner by reducing harmful emissions," Welch said. "This is a win-win-win for consumers, the auto industry and the environment."

'Cash for Clunkers' has won the support of a coalition including the Big Three automakers, the AFL-CIO and UAW, car dealer associations, the Chamber of Commerce and the Obama administration. Similar programs have been enacted in Germany, France and the United Kingdom in recent months. In Germany, the measure boosted car and truck sales by more than 20 percent.