



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Blue Water Area Transit Gains \$200,000 In Energy Tax Credits Extended By Congress To Compressed Natural Gas Providers**

PORT HURON, MICHIGAN — Blue Water Area Transit is now able to apply for federal tax credits of approximately \$200,000 after Congress retroactively renewed the credits for 2014. The extension of tax credits for alternative fuels was part of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (HR 5771).

BWAT started producing its own compressed natural gas in 1996 and now ranks as Michigan's largest producer of the alternative fuel. It also runs the state's largest fleet of natural gas fueled buses. After upgrading their system in 2013, the agency "compresses natural gas at the rate of 1500 cubic feet per minute and produces 40,000 gallons of CNG per month," according to Dave Frasier, BWAT director of procurement.

"We appreciate all the help and support our local officials have provided in getting these credits renewed," says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. "With their continued support, we hope to get the credits extended in the future."

Congress retroactively renewed the tax credits for just one year. They will already be expired again for 2015 by the time Congress returns to Washington on January 6 after their winter break.

HR 5771 was approved by the House on December 6 and by the Senate on December 16. Before leaving for his Holiday vacation in Hawaii, President Barack Obama signed the bill into law.



With or without the tax credits, BWAT's role as a CNG producer makes a valuable contribution to local quality of life.

"Our commitment to using and producing earth-friendly fuel benefits everyone in the community, even those who never ride the bus," says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee. "CNG is a clean, abundant, affordable and domestic alternative fuel that contributes to cleaner air that we all can enjoy."

BWAT operates four public CNG fueling stations that are certified by the State of Michigan. They each include video surveillance monitoring and a technical "call out" feature that will notify a BWAT CNG specialist if any problems arise. All of the fueling stations accept Discover, Master Card, and VISA, and charge \$2.30 per gasoline gallon equivalent.

One public station is located at the agency's headquarters, 2010 Lapeer Avenue in Port Huron, and is open Monday-Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The other three stations are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A Marine City station is located in the 500 block of Parker Road (M-29) in front of the Department of Public Works. A Capac station is located at Downey Road (Old M-21) and Capac Road, near Allenton Collision in Mussey Township. A third station is located on Hancock Street near Cawood Auto in Port Huron.

"These stations support our effort to coordinate and consolidate non-profit transportation programs throughout the county," Wilson explains. "The stations also increase our efficiency in servicing our buses while they travel along routes."

Blue Water Area Transit continues a proud tradition of innovation in public transit that has served Port Huron for more than a century. It was one of the nation's first communities to operate an electrified trolley system in the 1880s and one of the first to operate motor coaches when they became popular in the 1930s. Following an eight-year hiatus, the current bus service began in September 1976. Since then, BWAT has carried more than 26 million riders.

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