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From : Clerk to Panel

To : Members of Panel on Transport

* Hon LAU Kong-wah (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

* Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LEE Kai-ming, JP
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP

* Hon CHAN Wing-chan
Hon CHAN Kam-lam
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, JP
Hon FUNG Chi-kin
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Members of Panel on Environmental Affairs

Hon HUI Cheung-ching (Deputy Chairman)
Prof Hon NG Ching-fai
Hon Bernard CHAN
Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

(*Also a member of Panel on Environmental Affairs)

**LegCo Panel on Transport and
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs**

Follow-up to meeting on 15 December 1998

Members are invited to note that, pursuant to the decision of the captioned meeting, the Chairmen of the LegCo Panels on Transport and Environmental Affairs have written to the Administration, urging for the provision of financial incentives for the implementation of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Taxi Scheme. A copy of the letter is attached for members' information.

(Mrs Mary TANG)
for Clerk to Panel

Encl.

- c.c. Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP (Chairman of LegCo Panel on Transport)
Hon Christine LOH (Chairman of LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs)
Hon James TO Kun-sun (non-Panel Member)
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP (non-Panel Member)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (non-Panel Member)
ASG1
CAS(1)6
ALA1
ALA3

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17 December 1998

Secretary for Planning, Environment & Lands
(Attn: Mr Patrick LAU)
Planning, Environment & Lands Bureau
9th, 10th & 21st floors, Murray Building
Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr LAU,

**LegCo Panel on Transport and
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs**

A proposal to introduce Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Taxis

Following the release of the consultation paper on “A Proposal to Introduce LPG Taxis” in October 1998, LegCo Panels on Transport and Environmental Affairs held three meetings in the past two months to examine the Administration’s proposal in detail. Over ten environmental groups, taxi associations and concerned bodies attended these meetings to express views on the desirability and viability of replacing diesel taxis with LPG taxis.

All attending organizations support the objective of the proposal to clean up the deteriorating air quality in Hong Kong. To ensure the smooth and successful switch of diesel taxis to LPG taxis, both members and organizations consider it of utmost importance to provide financial incentives on the part of the Administration. Although the Administration has repeatedly assured members that it is fully aware of the concerns of the taxi trade, as of date, it has not come up with any concrete measures to put the mind of taxi drivers/operators at ease. We note that the consultation period will expire by the end of this month and the Administration has received many suggestions concerning financial incentives. In this regard, members of the two Panels urge the Financial Secretary to explain the financial incentives to be provided for the implementation of the LPG taxi scheme when he introduces the Appropriation Bill 1999 in March next year. This would allay the concerns of the taxi trade and show the commitment of the Administration in tackling the air pollution problem. As members consider it a matter of urgency to improve the air quality, the Administration is also urged to expedite the scheme provided that all the necessary measures and facilities could be put in place in time to support the full conversion of taxis to LPG.

Looking forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,

(Miriam LAU)
Chairman of LegCo
Panel on Transport

(Christine LOH)
Chairman of LegCo
Panel on Environmental Affairs

c.c. Financial Secretary