

No. _____

STATE OF TEXAS

Plaintiff,

v.

EYAL SIMAN-TOV a/k/a OZZIE
FREEDOM, and 1 FREEDOM, INC.,
d/b/a water4gas.com,

Defendants.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, THE STATE OF TEXAS, acting by and through Attorney General Greg Abbott ("State"), filing Plaintiff's Original Petition complaining of and against EYAL SIMAN-TOV a/k/a OZZIE FREEDOM, and 1 FREEDOM, INC., d/b/a WATER4GAS.COM ("Defendants"), and would respectfully show the court the following:

1. AUTHORITY

1.1 This action is brought by Attorney General Greg Abbott through his Consumer Protection and Public Health Division, in the name of THE STATE OF TEXAS and in the public interest under the authority granted him by § 17.47 of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act, TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE ANN. § 17.41 *et seq.* ("DTPA") (Vernon 2002, Supp. 2008), upon the grounds that Defendants have engaged in false, misleading or deceptive acts or practices in the course of trade and commerce as defined in, and declared unlawful by §§17.46(a) and (b) of the DTPA.

2. PARTY DEFENDANTS

2.1 Defendant Eyal Siman-Tov, also known as Ozzie Freedom (“Defendant Ozzie Freedom”) is an individual. He is the President of Defendant 1 Freedom, Inc. Defendant Ozzie Freedom may be served with citation and process at his residence located at 10458 Glory Ave., Tujunga, California 91042-2026.

2.2 Defendant, 1 Freedom, Inc., is a California corporation headquartered at 8209A Foothill Blvd. Suite 235, Sunland, California 91040. Defendant Ozzie Freedom is its President. Defendant 1 Freedom Inc., is a foreign filing entity that is required, but has failed, to designate and continuously maintain in this state: (1) a registered agent; or (2) a registered office. Consequently, the Texas Secretary of State is an agent of Defendant 1 Freedom, Inc., for purposes of service of process. Tex. Bus. Org. Code § 5.251. Therefore, Defendant, 1 Freedom, Inc., may be served with citation and process through the Texas Secretary of State. Citation may be served on the Secretary of State by certified mail, return receipt requested. Tex. Civ. Prac. R. Code §§ 17.026, 17.044.

3. VENUE

3.1. Venue of this suit is proper in Travis County, Texas, pursuant to TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE § 17.47(b), because events giving rise to this action occurred in Travis County and/or because Defendant has done business in Travis County.

4. PUBLIC INTEREST FOR DTPA ACTION

4.1. The Attorney General has reason to believe that Defendants have engaged in and will continue to engage in the unlawful practices set forth below. Accordingly, there is reason to believe that Defendants have caused and will continue to cause injury, loss and damage to the State of Texas and to the citizens thereof, and to the general public; and will also create adverse effects on

legitimate business enterprises which lawfully conduct trade and commerce in the State of Texas.

4.2 Deceptive trade practices are declared unlawful pursuant to §§17.46(a) and (b) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code. The promotion of deceptive trade practices on the Internet is of particular concern because the Internet makes it possible for operators to quickly reach thousands of consumers and to obtain payments from them through the electronic transfer of monies. Further, the promotion of deceptive trade practices via the Internet may serve to undermine consumer confidence in electronic commerce. Accordingly, the Consumer Protection & Public Health Division of the Office of the Attorney General believes and is of the opinion that these proceedings are in the public interest.

5. TRADE AND COMMERCE

5.1 Defendants have, at all times described herein, engaged in conduct constituting "trade," and "commerce," as those terms are defined in §17.45(6) of the DTPA.

6. ACTS OF AGENTS

6.1 Whenever in this Petition it is alleged that any Defendants did any act, it is meant that:

- A. Defendants performed or participated in the act; or
- B. Defendants' officers, agents, or employees performed or participated in the act on behalf of and under the authority of the Defendants.

7. NOTICE BEFORE SUIT

7.1 Defendants were informed in general of the unlawful conduct alleged below at least seven days before filing suit, as may be required by § 17.47(a) of the DTPA.

8. NATURE OF DEFENDANTS' OPERATIONS

8.1 Defendant Ozzie Freedom and his company 1 Freedom, Inc. are engaged in the business of promoting, marketing, and selling bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products. Using various Web sites including Water4Gas.com, EasyWaterCar.com, and Water4Gas.com/2books.htm, the Defendants advertise for sale a two-book set that supposedly guides one through the process of converting cars and trucks to a state having the capacity to use water as fuel.

8.2 In order to sell their products Defendants mislead consumers, making sometimes outlandish claims that consumers will be able to significantly increase their gas mileage, reduce their motor vehicles' emissions, and enhance their engines' power. Defendants also falsely claim that consumers who use the manuals to convert their vehicles to use water as fuel will be eligible for a federal income tax credit.

8.3 In response to a Civil Investigative Demand issued by the State of Texas, Defendants have failed to produce any competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating their claims that their products can increase gas mileage, reduce motor vehicle emissions, or enhance engine power.

8.4 As a result of Defendants' practices, a total of 3,197 Texas consumers purchased access to the Defendants' manuals between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008. The retail price that the Defendants charge consumers for access to the Water4Gas manuals is \$97.00. Thus, these consumers paid a total of \$310,109.00 for the Water4Gas manuals.

9. STATEMENT OF FACTS

9.1 At their Web sites, Defendants advertise a two-book set that supposedly guides consumers through the process of modifying their car or truck so that it can use water as fuel. The

Defendants refer to their bogus product variously as “books,” “manuals,” “Water4Gas DIY Manuals,” and “Water4Gas Do-It-Yourself Online Manuals” (“manuals”). They represent that these manuals will instruct consumers how to build a “hydrogen-on-demand” device (“Water4Gas device” or “device”), and install it on their vehicles. Defendants claim that this device will split water molecules into their components of oxygen and hydrogen gases through electrolysis, using electricity supplied by the vehicle’s battery. Further, Defendants claim that the resulting mixture of hydrogen and oxygen gases (sometimes called “Oxyhydrogen,” “HHO,” or “Brown’s Gas”) is supplied to the engine to be burnt as fuel and purportedly improves the combustion process.

Improved Fuel Economy

9.2 The Defendants represent that consumers who use their manuals will be able to significantly increase fuel economy. Numerous examples of such representations have been posted on Defendants’ Web sites, including the following: “Possibly double, sometimes triple your mileage with Water4Gas”; and “Average fuel economy increase, based on feedback from the field, is 35%.”

9.3 Additionally, the Web sites include numerous testimonial endorsements making fuel savings claims. For example, a testimonial attributed to a customer identified as Michael C. from Texas claims, *inter alia*, that “. . . I have experienced an (sic) 100% increase in mileage going from 16 mpg to 33 mpg.” Similarly, the Defendants’ manuals include representations of fuel savings, like “Improve your gas mileage by up to 50%. This includes both city and highway driving conditions.” As noted above, Defendants do not have competent and reliable scientific evidence supporting such fuel savings claims.

9.4 Experts in the fields of energy and mechanical engineering agree that “hydrogen-on-demand” devices like the one described in the Defendants’ manuals cannot significantly improve gas

mileage or fuel economy,¹ leading Defendants' to tell consumers, "Don't listen to the 'experts.'" Rather, Ozzie Freedom tells consumers that they should either order his e-books and "test it yourself," or pay one of the Defendants' affiliates to install a complete hydrogen-on-demand system on their vehicles.

Emissions Reductions

9.5 The Defendants also represent that consumers who use their manuals will be able to significantly reduce their vehicles' exhaust emissions. Numerous examples of such representations have been posted on Defendants' Web sites and in Defendants' manuals, including the following:

"Water4Gas cleans up emissions that damage your health and the health of your family. When burned, the 'Brown's Gas' we produce turns right back into water! No harmful chemicals are emitted from this system. Since your engine would take LESS gasoline and BURN IT MORE COMPLETELY, the overall effect is dramatic reduction in harmful emissions. You'll be able to smell the difference right away.";

"Clean the air you breathe – drastically reduce exhaust emissions"; and

"Eliminate harmful exhaust emissions that pollute the environment and contribute to global warming. Your engine will ADD oxygen to the environment instead of polluting it."

9.6 Further, the Web sites include numerous testimonial endorsements making exhaust emissions reduction claims. For example, a testimonial attributed to a customer identified as L.B. from Texas claims, *inter alia*, that "... the power is improved, and the exhaust (sic) is definitely cleaner." Meanwhile, as explained above, Defendants do not have any competent and reliable scientific evidence supporting these emissions reduction claims.

¹See, e.g., ConsumerAffairs.com, 'Run Your Car On Water' Scheme Could Leave Consumers All Wet (July 17, 2008), available at <http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/07/water4gas.html>. A copy of the this article is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated by reference pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 58. TEX. R. CIV. P. 58.

Engine Performance

9.7 The Defendants likewise represent that consumers who use their manuals will be able to significantly improve the performance of their vehicles' engines. Numerous examples of such representations have been posted on Defendants' Web sites and in Defendants' manuals, including the following:

"Water4Gas enhances engine power and performance.";

"Water4Gas system widens the torque range and can make the vehicle accelerate faster. After acceleration, you don't have to press the gas pedal as much to keep going.";

"Greatly enhance engine power and performance."; and

"You will notice a calmer, quieter and much smoother engine operation and smoother gearshifts. This is due to the effect water has on the combustion cycle inside your engine."

9.8 Additionally, Defendants' Web sites include numerous testimonial endorsements making claims regarding improved engine performance. For example, the Water4Gas.com Web site provides: "Carter Blankenship III from Tennessee and Jerry Young from Nevada reported that their 18-wheeler big rig trucks pull MUCH better uphill with Water4Gas. Would you agree that less strain on the Detroit Turbo Diesel engine must result in less wear and tear over the life of the engine?" Nevertheless, as noted above, Defendants do not offer any competent or reliable scientific evidence supporting these engine performance claims.

Tax Credit

9.9 Defendants also falsely represent that installing their Water4Gas device will make consumers eligible for a tax credit from the federal government. In fact, vehicles equipped with the Defendants' device do not qualify for a federal income tax credit.

9.10 The Defendants' manuals make several similar misleading representations regarding the tax credit eligibility for those using Defendant's "hydrogen-on-demand system." Particularly, after listing a series of hyperlinks the manuals state, "The documents above clearly demonstrate that the IRS will give you tax relief for clean-fuel burning vehicles, or hybrids that use clean fuel in part."

9.11 In fact, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides federal income tax credits for taxpayers purchasing certain qualified hybrid, fuel cell, advanced lean burn technology and alternative fuel vehicles. Vehicles with so-called hydrogen-on-demand systems do not qualify for this tax credit.

Health Claims

9.12 The Defendants' manuals also describe a way to use the device to create "Hydrogen-charged water" which the Defendants claim is safe for human consumption. Further, the Defendants represent that consumers will derive health benefits from drinking "Hydrogen-charged water" (also called "charged water"). The Defendants' Web site and manuals also contain numerous testimonial endorsements regarding the health benefits of consuming "charged water." Nevertheless, water which has been used in or affected by any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product has not been shown to be safe and effective to cure, treat, mitigate, or prevent a disease of the body. As such, the FDA has not approved such treated water for marketing as a drug. Nor has the FDA approved the marketing of the Water4Gas device as a medical device.

10. VIOLATIONS OF THE DTPA

10.1. Defendants, through their conduct as alleged above in paragraphs 8.1 through 9.13 have, in the course of trade and commerce, engaged in false, misleading and deceptive acts and practices declared unlawful in § 17.46(a) of the DTPA. Additionally, Defendants have violated

§ 17.46(b) of the DTPA as follows:

- A. Representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, or characteristics which they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection which he does not have, in violation of DTPA § 17.46(b)(5);
- B. Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, when they are of another, in violation of DTPA § 17.46(b)(7);
- C. Representing that an agreement confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which it does not have or involve, or which are prohibited by law, in violation of DTPA § 17.46(b)(12); and
- D. Failing to disclose information concerning services which was known at the time of the transaction, where such failure to disclose such information was intended to induce the consumer into a transaction into which the consumer would not have entered had the information been disclosed, in violation of DTPA § 17.46(b)(24).

10.2 Defendants have committed a minimum of 3,197 violations of the DTPA.

11. INJURY TO CONSUMERS

11.1. Defendants have, by means of unlawful acts and practices, obtained money or other property from persons to whom such money or property should be restored.

12. EQUITABLE RESCISSION

12.1 All agreements between consumers and Defendants for the purchase of Defendants' bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products should be subject to the equitable remedy of rescission.

13. CONSTRUCTIVE TRUST

13.1 Any of Defendants' assets derived from the sale of their bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products should be subject to the equitable remedy of a constructive trust.

14. DISGORGEMENT

14.1 All of Defendants' assets gained from the sale of their bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products are subject to the equitable remedy of disgorgement, which is the forced relinquishment of all benefits that would be unjust for Defendants to retain, including all ill-gotten gains and benefits or profits that resulted from their putting fraudulently converted property to a profitable use. Defendants should be ordered to disgorge all monies fraudulently taken from consumers together with all of the proceeds, profits, income, interest and accessions thereto. Such disgorgement should be for the benefit of victimized consumers and the State of Texas.

15. REPATRIATION OF ASSETS

15.1 After due notice and a hearing, the Court should order that all of Defendants' assets gained from the sale of their bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products that are situated outside the jurisdiction of this Court be deposited or repatriated into an appropriate financial institution within the jurisdiction of this Court, or into the Court's registry.

16 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION

16.1 Because the Defendants have engaged in the unlawful acts and practices described above, Defendants have violated and will continue to violate the law as alleged in this Petition. Unless restrained by this Honorable Court, the Defendants will continue to violate the laws of the State of Texas and cause injury, loss and damage to the State of Texas and to the general public. The interests of the State of Texas and the public require temporary and permanent injunctions to prohibit the Defendants from continuing to operate unlawful Web sites and to advertise their bogus fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products, unless Defendants are in compliance with the DTPA. Therefore, Plaintiff requests a Temporary Injunction and Permanent Injunction as indicated below.

17. REQUEST TO CONDUCT DISCOVERY PRIOR TO TEMPORARY INJUNCTION HEARING

17.1 Plaintiff requests leave of this Court to conduct expedited telephonic, oral, written and other depositions of witnesses with requests for production prior to any scheduled Temporary Injunction Hearing and prior to Defendants' answer date. There are a number of victims and other witnesses who reside out of this State and/or out of subpoena range who may need to be deposed prior to any scheduled injunction hearing. Any depositions, telephonic or otherwise, would be conducted with reasonable, shortened notice to Defendants, and their attorneys, if known.

18. TRIAL BY JURY

18.1 Plaintiff herein requests a jury trial and will tender the jury fee to the Travis County District Clerk's office pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 216 and Texas Government Code Section 51.604. TEX. GOV'T. CODE ANN. §51.604; TEX. R. CIV. P. 216.

19. PRAYER

19.1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that Defendants be cited according to law to appear and answer herein; that after due notice and hearing a TEMPORARY INJUNCTION be issued; and upon final hearing a PERMANENT INJUNCTION be issued, restraining and enjoining Defendants, Defendants' successors, assigns, officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys and any other person in active concert or participation with Defendants, from engaging in false, deceptive, or misleading acts or practices, including, but not limited to the following acts or practices:

- A. Making any express or implied statement in connection with the marketing or advertising of any good or service, including any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product, that is false, or has the capacity, tendency or effect of deceiving or misleading consumers; or omitting any material information such that the express or implied statement deceives or tends to deceive consumers.
- B. Selling, marketing, promoting, distributing, advertising or allowing others to sell, market, promote, distribute, or advertise, the sale of fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products by misrepresenting, expressly or by implication, that such product:
 - 1) will improve a vehicle's fuel economy or gas mileage;
 - 2) will reduce or improve a vehicle's production of exhaust emissions;
 - 3) will improve the engine performance of consumers' vehicles; or
 - 4) will affect a consumer's eligibility for a tax credit from the federal government.

C. Accepting or paying monies or remuneration of any type or character for or in furtherance of the sale, distribution, marketing, promotion, or advertising relating to the sale of any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products, including but not limited to the Water4Gas Manuals, wherein it is represented, expressly or by implication, that these products:

- 1) will improve a vehicle's fuel economy or gas mileage;
- 2) will reduce or improve a vehicle's production of exhaust emissions;
or
- 3) will improve the engine performance of a consumer's vehicle, unless Defendants have in their possession at the time of the sale, distribution, marketing, promotion or advertising, competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating such representations.

D. Selling, distributing, sending, mailing, printing, giving, disseminating, advertising, referencing, or allowing any other person, entity or business affiliated with Defendants or subject to their control, directly or indirectly, to sell, distribute, send, give, mail, print, advertise, reference, or disseminate any materials that in any manner represent, expressly or by implication, that any product:

- 1) will improve a vehicle's fuel economy or gas mileage;
- 2) will reduce a vehicle's production of exhaust emissions; or
- 3) will improve the engine performance of a consumer's vehicle; unless

Defendants have in their possession at the time of the selling, distributing, sending, mailing, printing, giving, disseminating, advertising, or referencing, competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating such representations.

E. Making any misrepresentation, in any manner, expressly or by implication, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any purported fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product for use in conjunction with a motor vehicle:

- (1) about the effect of such a product on any motor vehicle warranty; or
- (2) about the effect of such a product on one's income tax liabilities or eligibility for a federal income tax credit or refund.

F. Making any representation in any manner, expressly or by implication, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any purported fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product for use in conjunction with a motor vehicle:

- (1) about the effect of such a product on a motor vehicle's engine performance;
- (2) that such a product will clean a motor vehicle's engine;
- (3) that such a product reduces fuel consumption or improves fuel economy;

- (4) that such a product reduces fuel consumption or improves fuel economy by any number, percentage, or rate;
- (5) that such a product reduces emissions or pollutants;
- (6) that such a product reduces emissions or pollutants by any number, percentage, or rate; or
- (7) about the benefits, performance, or efficacy of such a product unless Defendants have in their possession at the time of the selling, distributing, sending, mailing, printing, giving, disseminating, advertising, or referencing, competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating such representations.

G. Misrepresenting in any manner, expressly or by implication, that any user's testimonial or endorsement of any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products, including but not limited to the Water4Gas Manuals, reflects the actual and current opinions, findings, beliefs, or experiences of the user.

H. Representing in any manner, expressly or by implication, that the experience represented by any user testimonial or endorsement of any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products represents the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the product, unless:

- (1) The representation is true and, at the time it is made, Defendants possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence that substantiates the representation; or

- (2) Defendants disclose, clearly and prominently, and in close proximity to the endorsement or testimonial, what the generally expected results would be for users of the product based upon competent and reliable scientific evidence.
- I. Misrepresenting in any manner, expressly or by implication, the existence, contents, validity, results, conclusions, or interpretations of any test, study, or research related to any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products.
- J. Misrepresenting in any manner, expressly or by implication, that any test, study, or research related to any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product qualifies as competent and reliable scientific evidence.
- K. Advertising or otherwise representing in any manner, expressly or by implication, that water which has been used in or affected by the process of electrolysis is effective for treating diseases of the body, when the FDA has not approved such treated water as a drug.
- L. Advertising or otherwise representing in any manner, expressly or by implication, that water which has been used in or affected by any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product is safe and effective to cure, treat, mitigate, or prevent a disease of the body, when the FDA has not approved such treated water as a drug.
- M. Failing to completely remove all claims and testimonials that water which has been used in or affected by any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product can

cure, treat, mitigate, or prevent any disease from all of Defendants' Web sites, promotional materials, and advertisements;

- N. Representing that water which has been used in or affected by any fuel-saving or emissions-reducing product has any benefit or characteristic unless Defendants have in their possession at the time such representation is made competent and reliable scientific evidence to substantiate such representation;
- O. Transferring, concealing, destroying, or removing from the jurisdiction of this Court any books, records, documents, or other written or computer generated materials relating to the business of Defendants currently, or hereafter in Defendants' possession, custody or control, except in response to further orders or subpoenas in this cause.

19.2 Plaintiff further prays that, upon hearing, this Court will order Defendants to notify each and every agent, independent business owner, affiliate, or any other person whom Defendants have reason to know or believe are marketing Defendants' fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products of the type contained in any of this Court's Temporary and Permanent Orders by:

- A. Posting the full text of the Orders on the home page of their Web sites, including but not limited to www.Water4Gas.com, www.EasyWaterCar.com, www.Water4Gas.com/2books.htm, and including a link to all notices of these Orders on the Web site of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas; and
- B. Sending a copy of any Temporary and Permanent Orders by first class mail within 72 hours after Defendants receive actual notice of the Order to each

and every agent, independent business owner, affiliate, or any other person who Defendants have reason to know or believe are marketing Defendants' fuel-saving or emissions-reducing products.

19.3 Plaintiff further prays that upon final hearing this Court will order Defendants to pay civil penalties in favor of THE STATE OF TEXAS in the amount of \$20,000.00 per violation of the DTPA pursuant to § 17.47(c)(1) of the DTPA.

19.4 Plaintiff further prays that upon final hearing this Court will order Defendants to restore all money or other property taken from persons by means of unlawful acts or practices, or, in the alternative, award judgment for damages to compensate for such losses pursuant to § 17.47(d) of the DTPA.

19.5 Plaintiff further prays that upon final hearing this Court will order Defendants to pay to THE STATE OF TEXAS attorneys' fees and costs of court pursuant to the TEX. GOVT. CODE § 402.006(c) (Vernon 2005, Supp. 2007).

19.6 Plaintiff further prays that upon final hearing this Court will order Defendants to pay both pre-judgment and post judgment interest on all awards of restitution, damages or civil penalties, as provided by law.

19.7 Plaintiff further prays that upon final hearing that this Court grant all other relief to which THE STATE OF TEXAS may show itself entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

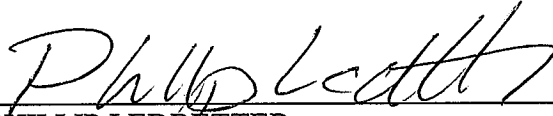
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VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that the facts contained in this petition are within my personal knowledge and
true and correct.



Pierce Cox

*STATE OF TEXAS v. EYAL SIMAN-TOV a/k/a OZZIE FREEDOM, and 1 FREEDOM, INC.,
d/b/a water4gas.com*

EXHIBIT A

Automotive Education Employment Electronics Family Finance Health Homeowners Pets Shopping Travel

Build Your own HHO Kit
We've found the best Hydrogen Kits
Compare Them on Our Chart and Pick!
GasConversionKits.com

Get 90 MPG 866-437-7795
Buy Our Kit Today. Only \$375 Get 70 MPG
In A Diesel or Unleaded!
www.EFISOLUTION.com

Honda FCX - Official Site
Get more info on the Honda FCX Clarity
Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Car.
www.honda.com

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Car by Water

Hydrogen Plans

Best Hybrid Car

Gas Conversion

Biodiesel News

NEWS Latest Archives Auto Cells, etc. Computers Financial Health Homeowners Parents Privacy Scams Seniors Travel

News

'Run Your Car On Water' Scheme Could Leave Consumers All Wet

Scientists debunk 'scammish' gas-from-water claims

By David Wood
ConsumerAffairs.com

July 17, 2008

What if you could install a small device under your car hood and improve your fuel economy by 50 percent? With today's soaring gas prices, a device like that sounds pretty good. Almost too good, in fact.

These widely-advertised devices, known variously as a "hydrogen generator" or "hydrogen booster," claim to be able to use electricity from your car battery to split water into its components of oxygen and hydrogen. This supposedly forms what is called "Brown's Gas."

Scientists say the idea is preposterous, with one saying the energy created would "not amount to a hill of beans."

Perhaps the most notorious Web site promoting the concept is Water4Gas.com. Created by a gentleman who calls himself Ozzie Freedom, the site is a 12,000-word sales pitch for two electronic books advertised at \$97.00.



• Read More Scam Alerts ...

Ads by Google

Alternative Car Fuel Kits
Do it yourself car fuel cell. The Forbidden Truth About Fuel...
www.HydrogenAndMotors.com

Hydrogen Engine
Find out how Ford is Making its Vehicles More Green.
www.FordVehicles.com

Run on Water/Hydrogen
Reduce Greenhouse Gas More Mileage/Power
www.NationalVapor.com

Diesel Car
Learn More About BMW's New Advanced Diesel Engine Technology.
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Cars running on water?
Imagine your car, running on water and make a profit out of it!
www.tradecenterint.com

Advertisement

When you read this, it didn't go past a word that you don't fully understand and you're the GLOSSARY

water4gas

Please Select Your language

TRUCKS CLICK HERE

CONGRATULATIONS! You've indeed won the ORIGINAL WATER4GAS website by Ozzie Freedom! There are many false sales appearing throughout the internet. I want what they sell are books that I give away as a FREE BONUS on this website. This is the only website where you can actually get the real DEAL with real tech support.

© Ozzie Freedom

Ozzie

AS SEEN ON TV

The books supposedly explain how you can build your own system that will "...take EXCESS energy out of the car's battery or alternator (in other words very low current that the engine does not feel) and use this electricity to generate a very small amount of Hydrogen per minute. What that Hydrogen does is help split the gasoline/air mixture droplets into a finer mist - thus helping it burn more efficiently and more completely."

What kind of mileage improvements? Well, the Water4Gas site

consumernews

March 13 2009

- Gas Prices Holding Steady
- Survey Shows Consumers Preparing For The Worst
- Scammers Use Forged Bank Letterhead to Con California Consumers
- FTC Settles With Atlanta Company Over Untimely Rebates
- Freebee Gas Members Still Waiting For Free Gas
- Congress to Tackle Junk Food in Schools
- Foreclosure Activity Up Six Percent in February
- Keep The Faith and Lose The Weight?
- More News ...

LATEST RATES

Savings	Mortgages	Auto	Insurance	Credit Cards
Loan type	Rate	+/-	Last week	
MMA	1.40%	▼	1.45%	
6 month CD	1.59%	▼	1.59%	
1 yr CD	2.06%	▼	2.08%	
1 yr CD Jumbo	2.15%	▼	2.18%	
5 yr CD	2.65%	▼	2.69%	
Select product and compare rates				
1-year CD	Go			APPROVED BY Bankrate.com

recentrecalls&warnings

- Kidde Fire Extinguishers
- Valero Propane LP Gas
- Seattle Cotton Works Hooded Sweatshirts Sold at Kohls
- Tippmann A-5 Paintball Markers
- Shakespeare Casting Game and Fishing Kits
- Maytag, Jenn-Air, Amana, Admiral, Magic Chef, Performa by Maytag, Crosley Refrigerators
- Infantino Toys with Blue Metallic Fabric
- Electra Bicycles with Front Trays



Choose from free phones with music players, Web, email, Bluetooth® capabilities and so much more.

Plans start at just **\$39.99** per month

Get a Free Phone



Cheap Car Insurance
Insurance companies on TV can't compete with our multi-quote system.
Click here for your quote!

claims that you'll be able to double your gas mileage. However, one claim says that the system "has boosted MPG by as much as 185% on a Chevy 4WD truck..."

Mason jar

Those are pretty big claims for a device made out of a Mason jar and baking soda, so we contacted Water4Gas by both phone and e-mail, sending a list of questions to Mr. Freedom. Our inquiries went unanswered.

Doing a Web search for "water4gas" or "Ozzie Freedom" brings up page after page of search results and advertisements with headlines such as, "Is Water4Gas a Scam?" or "Water4Gas Reviewed," not to mention a wealth of videos that claim to show the device in action.

It doesn't take long to realize that the "articles" and "reviews" appear to be sales pitches masquerading as unbiased reviews. Some sites present themselves as mechanics giving free advice to motorists.

Presenting a possible clue as to where all these sites come from, a site called waterfuelx.com instructs sales affiliates on how to increase sales, recommending that the affiliate create a "review page" and list the waterfuelx product as the number one choice because "reviewing the product will mean monster [sales] conversions."

No experts

All of these hydrogen booster sites have one thing in common: Even though they claim the "hydrogen-booster process" has been around a hundred years, they don't include any scientific studies or expert testimony to support their claim that the process improves gas mileage.

In fact, the Water4Gas site specifically says that you shouldn't listen to "experts." Instead, Mr. Freedom says that you should just order his books.

And just who is the mysterious Mr. Freedom?

According to the bio on his Web site, he was formerly known as Eyal Siman-Tov, and Water4Gas is not his first online venture.

In 2006, he ran a Web site called Magnet4cash.com. It promised that you could "finance your wildest dreams WITHOUT loans," with the goal "to educate you on little-known methods to make fast cash legally..."

Mr. Freedom also invented the "Spongebee," which he describes as "the new all-American flying craze." Further, he is the founder of something called Sane Computers. That Web site has the headline, "New Mind-Blowing Invention Puts An End To... Your Computer Frustrations!"

Additionally, Freedom's portfolio lists many awards, including the "Sponsor For Total Freedom" by the International Association of Scientologists.

Scientists dismissive

Freedom's advice to ignore the experts notwithstanding, we checked in with a few.

"All of these device/schemes seem to promote adding hydrogen to improve the combustion process. There is no way it can improve fuel economy by 50%, or even 5%," said Dr. Robert Sawyer,

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THE NEW VOLVO XC60



Professor of Energy Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley .

Dr. Sawyer said that he has been reviewing gas-saving devices since he first joined the faculty at UC-Berkeley, more than 40 years ago, and to see a change in MPG comes as no surprise.

"One would expect to see a small increase or decrease (a few percent) in fuel economy from all of these devices, purely the result of test variability. However, people will put a device on their car and automatically change the way they drive. This in itself will improve fuel economy simply because a person is driving slower, etc.," Sawyer said.

All of the experts we spoke with had serious problems with the wording on the Web sites promoting the Water4Gas concept.

"The Web sites I saw used a little bit of truth mixed in with a lot of false statements," said Dr. John Kramlich, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Washington College of Engineering. "People need to forget about all the 'testimonials' they see because the only way to know if a device helps at all is to use a dynamometer. You not only need to test the MPG, but also what is happening to the combustion process of the engine, and the test has to be done numerous times."

When we showed the instructions and claims to Dr. Andrew A. Frank, he had difficulty holding back the laughter.

"It shows the desperation people feel!" said Frank, Professor of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at the University of California, Davis.

"This has been around for years, but it didn't work back then and it won't work now," Dr. Frank said. "It's such a very small amount of hydrogen-oxygen gas that it is impossible to have any real effect on combustion."

Frank went on to relay a story from his youth.

"Back in the 50's, water injection was a big thing because the P-51 Mustang aircraft used the process. The P-51 used a very high engine compression and on heavy loads, the engine would knock. The water injection did give the P-51 engine more power and it stopped the knocking."

"Curious people like me started to modify our own cars, and guess what? It did get rid of the knocking, but it also took a ton of water. It also messed up the timing because internal combustion engines aren't designed for these things. In short, all it did was create a negative force on the engine, even though the knocking stopped."

We asked Dr. Frank about all the positive "reviews" and "testimonials" that have flooded the Internet.

"A normal everyday driver can't accurately measure the MPG of their car. Each tank of gas might vary the MPG by as much as 20%, based on the time of day, road conditions, etc.," Frank stated. ,

"I saw one 'test' that showed a driver filling up the tank, driving 20 miles and then stopping to top off the tank. You can't measure anything this way because the air in the tank could easily be 100% off."

Dr. Frank also made note of what every other expert has said -- a car battery can't create enough energy to have any measurable effect.

"These devices simply cannot generate enough hydrogen or oxygen to amount to a hill of beans. A 12-volt car battery might create some bubbles, but beyond that, a standard car battery isn't powerful enough to do anything," he said.

"Here's a good example that people should keep in mind," Frank said. "Even with the most expensive and sophisticated energy recovery systems, such as on some diesel trucks, you will only see about a 5% increase in fuel mileage."

In fact, some Canadian truckers use hydrogen boosters, but they

shell out up to \$15,000 for the technology. In addition, the Canadian government performed scientific testing on the device and found that it reduced fuel consumption by only 4%.

David Greene, energy expert and Corporate Fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory concurred. He said that yes, people can see an improvement, but "the potential for efficiency improvement by more rapid combustion is nowhere near the kinds of claims these Web sites make."

Side effects

Even if a person could tweak a device to get a few percent improvements in MPG, what kind of other problems might they be causing?

"You are also causing the engine to work harder, plain and simple," said Greene.

The experts also said to be wary of Web sites that use selective "studies" to promote their product. Many sites are referencing material from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

"I'm very active with that group and often times the SAE papers have a very narrow scope," said Dr. Thomas Asmus, retired Senior Research Executive with DaimlerChrysler Corporation and a current member of the Fuel Economy Panel for the National Academy of Science. "These hydrogen-on-demand Web sites are picking and choosing which SAE factoids to use, but if you added it all up, you would have nothing."

A recognized expert in fuel efficiency and engine combustion, Dr. Asmus said that these devices, "mix in a little hydrogen with fuel and can make a difference, but considering the amount of water used and that we're talking about a 12-volt battery, the maximum improvement (if any) would be no more than 2%."

And what about the claims of this being "suppressed" technology?

"This stuff has been around forever and it's been researched to death. It's a simple electrolyzer that could quite possibly cause more energy to be used than if you didn't use the device. It's as 'scammish' as anything I have ever seen," Asmus said.

Hydrogen Honda

In June, Honda made news with the introduction of its first hydrogen fuel cell car, an incredibly sophisticated, and incredibly expensive technology. Those who don't pay much attention to details may think the Honda project lends credence to the Water4Gas concept.

But the battery-powered cars are, in fact, powered by a hydrogen fuel that, while essentially made from water, is the product of a process much more complex and expensive than anything described on the gas-from-water sites.

In fact, getting water anywhere near gasoline is bad news for an engine. The slightest bit of water in your gas tank can cause huge problems.

The gas-from-water sites may be the newest kid on the block but they join a long list of supposed fuel-efficiency products that just don't make the grade, consumer protection officials warn.

"When gasoline prices rise, consumers often look for ways to improve fuel efficiency," the Federal Trade Commission said in a recent consumer alert. "Although there are practical steps you can take to increase gas mileage, you should be wary of any gas-saving claims for automotive devices or oil and gas additives. Even for the few gas-saving products that have been found to work, the savings have been small."

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