

Alegre focuses on natural gas

Robert Storace, Correspondent

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Gail Hill Williams of Danbury is using her extensive background in sales and marketing to promote a nationwide natural gas initiative.

Williams, president and chief operating officer of [Alegre Communications](#), plans to meet with the staff of U.S. Rep. [John Larson](#), D-East Hartford, on Oct. 6 to discuss legislation dealing with alternative fuel for transportation.

Larson, U.S. Sens. [John Kerry](#), D-Mass., and [Joe Lieberman](#), I-Conn., are introducing a bill aimed at having more vehicles run on alternatives to gasoline, such as natural gas.

Williams formed Alegre in 1995 with a goal of helping people better manage and develop their businesses. Although Alegre still works in strengthening other businesses, her focus now is promoting natural gas.

"We want to pitch CNG (compressed natural gas) solutions," said Williams, 45, a graduate of the [Ansell School of Business](#) at [Western Connecticut State University](#).

Currently, Alegre has one client within the natural gas arm of its business: the New York/[New Jersey Port Authority](#).

"We want to reduce foreign dependency on oil and rely on American resources," Williams said.

She has partnered with Clean Vehicle Solutions, which modifies cars to run on alternative fuels, as its sales arm. That company will retrofit 63 vehicles to run on natural gas. Refitting a vehicle to use only natural gas is not cheap and costs from \$16,000 to \$18,000 a vehicle, Williams said.

According to [Dean Sloan](#), managing director of Clean Vehicle Solutions, 140,000 of the about 300 million vehicles in the United States run on natural gas. There are about 1,200 U.S. fueling stations, most of which the public does not have access to, that carry natural gas. There are 13 locations in Connecticut, only two of them accessible to the public.

Williams called natural gas "a win-win-win" and said it is cleaner for the environment, costs less and is readily available within our borders.

The obstacle, she said, is the big oil companies and their lobbyists.



President [Barack Obama](#) is proposing a \$50 billion highway transportation bill, and Williams said, she would like to see places to purchase natural gas a part of that legislation.

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