

Stabenow to propose rebate for electric cars

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U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow plans to introduce legislation today aimed at jump-starting demand for plug-in electric cars, such as the extended-range Chevrolet Volt, which also uses a gas generator, and the all-electric Nissan Leaf.

The legislation would give consumers a \$7,500 cash rebate from the government -- instead of a \$7,500 tax refund -- for buying an electric vehicle. That means the buyer would benefit immediately, instead of in the following year.

Stabenow, D-Mich., also plans to propose giving businesses a tax credit for purchasing commercial plug-in hybrid trucks. "These vehicles represent the jobs of the future, and the more that are sold, the more jobs will be created," she said in a statement.

The bill is similar to plans the White House announced two weeks ago that would help the country reach the president's goal of getting 1 million plug-in or advanced-technology cars on the road by 2015.

President Barack Obama's goal can be reached only if it is supported by aggressive government incentives that also spur the development of infrastructure, Oliver Hazimeh, director of PRTM, a global consulting firm with an office in Southfield, said in a report Friday. "One million electric vehicles by 2015 is a realistic goal -- one that carries with it additional benefits for the U.S., including high-quality job growth."