

**Letter to the Editor, New York Times, 220 Words**

June 5, 2006

To the Editor:

Re: *A Quick Fix for the Gas Addicts*, by Thomas L. Friedman.

Mr. Friedman claims GM is “dangerous to America’s future” and is “like a crack dealer” luring Americans to SUVs. He accuses us of buying congressional votes and suggests Toyota should take over GM.

Rubbish.

GM offers more vehicles with EPA-estimated 30 mpg or higher on the highway than any automaker, including 2005’s top-selling economy car, the Chevy Aveo.

GM has 1.9 million E85-capable vehicles on the road that can significantly reduce oil consumption, and we’re helping expand E85 distribution nationwide.

Our Saturn Vue Green Line hybrid, available soon, features the industry’s best SUV highway mileage, and our sophisticated two-mode hybrid system will debut next year on our full-size SUVs.

In 38 cities, 449 GM hybrid buses save thousands of gallons of fuel weekly. Meanwhile, we’re developing hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles that promise to remove the automobile from the environmental debate.

Finally, we spend less lobbying in Washington than most large companies. GM has 138,000 U.S. employees, and millions depend on our success. It’s important that their voice be heard. But we don’t “buy votes,” and to say so is irresponsible.

I invite Mr. Friedman to Detroit to learn the facts first hand. What do you say, Tom?

**Steven J. Harris**  
**Vice President, Global Communications**  
**General Motors Corp.**  
**Detroit**