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## Bonnie Raitt's biofuel tour bus is something to talk about

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CHESAPEAKE - Singer Bonnie Raitt stopped in Hampton Roads this weekend, brought her act to a crowd in Portsmouth and left with about 600 gallons of soy bean juice.

That's how much biodiesel it took to fill up her fleet of two buses and three tractor-trailers at Domestic Fuels & Lubes in Chesapeake.

Green-minded entertainers are nothing new. Buddy Ivey, a sales manager for Domestic Fuels, said he gets about one call a month from traveling musicians looking for blended biodiesel.

But Raitt's request marked a first. She uses what is nearly 100 percent soybean product, B99.

"I've never heard of anybody running B99," Ivey said.

Alas, Raitt didn't show Saturday at Domestic Fuels, but three of her truckers did.

"She believes in it, and she has me believing in it," said Paul Black, the driver who searches online for distributors and plans the next pit stop.

They'll fill up next in Athens, Ga., he said.

Proponents hail biodiesel as an environmentally friendly alternative to oil. Another plus: it leaves drivers smelling like french fries instead of diesel fuel, Black said.

Colder weather requires less concentrated mixtures, and the price can run about 20 cents more per gallon, Ivey said. The price Saturday was \$2.85 a gallon.

"It's a perfect deal," Black said. "I just can't understand why the whole country doesn't do it."

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