



Monday, February 20, 2006

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Statement of Governor Doyle Regarding President Bush's Comments on Ethanol

Republican Legislature Should Heed President's Advice and Pass Ethanol Bill

Governor Jim Doyle today released the following statement regarding President Bush's visit to Wisconsin today and his strong support for ethanol:

"During his visit to Wisconsin today, the President said that our country is 'addicted to oil,' and advocated for the use of ethanol. His comments today underscore that support for ethanol is widespread. Unfortunately, so far, widespread support hasn't translated into widespread action here in Wisconsin.

"The Legislature should follow the advice President Bush gave today – the same advice that countless Wisconsin farmers and energy experts have given – invest in ethanol, and do it now. We can reduce our reliance on foreign oil, while helping our environment and our economy.

"Ethanol is clean, renewable, and less expensive. It helps Wisconsin farmers, and it reduces the demand for foreign oil. I have repeatedly called for the ethanol bill authored by Senator Harsdorf and Representatives Freese and Gronemus that has stalled in the Legislature, and I renew that call today.

"At this point, Legislators can't just say they support ethanol and then avoid taking a vote. Wisconsin's farmers and ethanol producers deserve more than that.

"It is time for the Legislature to take action on this bill and schedule it for a vote, because America should be more dependent on the Midwest, and less dependent on the Mideast. Wisconsin can and should be the nation's leader in ethanol production."