



CONGRESSMAN GIL GUTKNECHT
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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Gil Gutknecht

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securing our future: renewable energy

Congressman Gil Gutknecht
First District, Minnesota

Congressman Gil Gutknecht is chairman of a House Agriculture Subcommittee that, among other things, oversees renewable fuel issues.



Dear Friend,



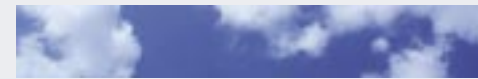
Congressman Gutknecht speaks about the importance of renewable fuels at a bipartisan Capitol Hill press conference announcing the Renewable Fuels Act of 2005 (June 28, 2005).

Americans have dreamed of being less dependant on foreign energy since the 1970s. We must ask, how are we doing?

Today, the United States imports about 60 percent of its petroleum from foreign countries – many whose governments aren't particularly friendly to us. At \$65 per barrel, that added up to \$21 billion U.S. dollars sent overseas in August of 2005 alone.

I believe it would be better to keep more of those dollars at home by investing in renewable fuels.

We need targets and benchmarks for the production of clean, reliable and renewable fuels. That is why I introduced legislation that would follow Minnesota's lead and require a 10 percent blend of renewable fuel in all gasoline sold in the United States by 2010. I call this proposal the "10 by 10" plan.



There are some who say this can't be done, that the bar is set too high. But Americans have always been able to accomplish great things when faced with a serious challenge.

Remember, a goal is a dream with a deadline. That is why I say it's time for "10 by 10."

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gil".

Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress



Congressman Gutknecht discusses biodiesel production with Rick Mummert, manager of the Exol Ethanol Plant in Albert Lea (August 26, 2005).

"Renewable energy is good for our environment, good for our economy, adds value to our agricultural crops and provides jobs and investment for rural America."

-Congressman Gil Gutknecht

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The United States consumes more energy than anyone else in the world. The problem is we have not developed enough domestic energy sources to meet our increasing appetite.

▷ where we are and why:

- Domestic oil production has been decreasing since 1970;
- The United States has not built a new oil refinery since 1976;
- We depend on oil for 40 percent of our total energy needs;
- Yet we rank only 11th worldwide in reserves of oil; and
- Much of our oil comes from politically unstable countries whose governments are not entirely friendly to the United States.

We must also remember that, as China and India join the industrialized ranks, more people are going to be competing for fossil fuels. As demand increases, so too will the cost.



taking action with the “10 by 10” plan

If we are to ever become more energy independent, I believe we have to set specific goals.

By 2010, I want America to follow Minnesota’s lead and require a 10 percent blend of renewable fuel in all gasoline sold in the United States. But I assure you, my “10 by 10” plan is just a starting point.

Some say this goal can’t be achieved. Remember, this a country that:

- Cured polio;
- Won World War II in less than four years; and
- Put a man on the moon in less than eight years when many said it couldn’t be done.

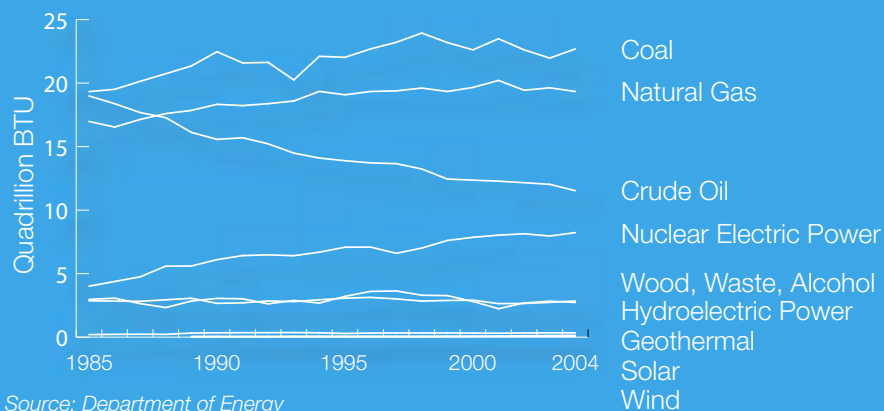
So, let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work. It’s time for a “10 by 10” solution.

Congressman Gutknecht is interviewed following his call for congressional hearings into high gas prices (August 24, 2005).

did you know?

According to Minnesota’s Office of Environmental Assistance, more than 80 percent of Minnesotans think electric companies should look to renewable energy sources over fossil fuels when generating additional electricity.

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION (1985-2004)



Source: Department of Energy

WHERE WE GET OUR CRUDE OIL (January through July, 2005)



(thousand barrels per day)

Canada - 1,608	Russia - 264
Mexico - 1,558	United Kingdom - 232
Saudi Arabia - 1,522	Algeria - 214
Venezuela - 1,329	Kuwait - 198
Nigeria - 1,041	Colombia - 147
Iraq - 558	Gabon - 120
Angola - 399	Brazil - 88
Ecuador - 278	

Source: Department of Energy



Renewable fuels are better for our environment and better for our economy. Wind, solar and biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel are great alternatives to fossil fuels. Let's take a closer look at what makes increased ethanol production so important:

we need alternatives to fossil fuels



The Energy Bill encourages the production of renewable energy.

(signed into law on by President Bush on August 8, 2005)

FACT: When we choose ethanol, we're also doing our part to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

- In August 2005, the United States imported an average of 10.6 million barrels of crude oil a day. That adds up to 3.8 billion barrels of foreign oil imported each year.
- At \$65 per barrel, that added up to \$21 billion of U.S. dollars sent overseas in the month of August alone.
- Today, ethanol reduces imports by 128,000 barrels of oil a day.

FACT: Ethanol is cheaper to produce than a gallon of gasoline.

- With corn at \$2.25 a bushel, it now costs about \$1.00 to produce a gallon of ethanol. The most efficient plants can produce a gallon for 95 cents.
- Compare that to the costs to refine gasoline. At \$60 a barrel of oil, it costs \$1.65 to produce a gallon of gasoline.

FACT: Producing ethanol is energy efficient.

- For every 100 BTUs of energy used to make ethanol, 167 BTUs of ethanol is produced. In other words, there is a 67 percent energy gain for every BTU used to produce ethanol.

FACT: Ethanol is good for the environment.

- Ethanol is one of the best tools we have to fight air pollution from vehicles.
- Ethanol contains 35 percent oxygen. Adding oxygen results in more complete fuel combustion, thus reducing harmful tailpipe emissions. The CO₂ created is used by next year's corn crops.

- Requires at least 7.5 million gallons of renewable fuels be included in our nation's fuel supply by 2012.
- Extends tax credits through 2007 for energy produced from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and other facilities.
- Includes tax incentives for biodiesel production; energy efficient homes, home improvements and appliances; solar and fuel cells, and other renewable incentives.

GREEN POWER

Minnesota continues to be a leader in promoting renewable energies! With the 'Green Power' program, residents can help increase the percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy. Customers can purchase a portion of green power each month. Every dollar will go directly toward the purchase of new green power.

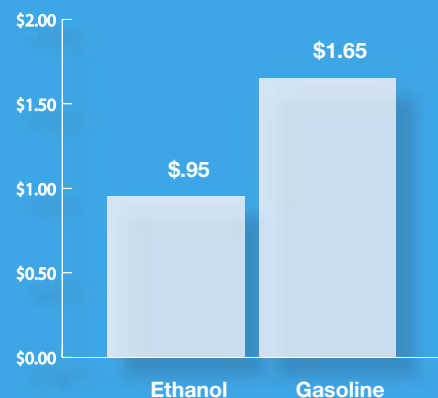
Not only does green power help reduce our need to build more fossil-fuel power plants, it is good for our environment, supports our local farmers and improves our economy.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance at:
www.moea.state.mn.us/energy.

did you know?

The U.S. ethanol industry set an all-time monthly production record in July of 258,000 barrels per day. Source: Energy Information Administration.

COSTS OF PRODUCTION (per gallon)



Source: USDA (Based on \$60/barrel oil and \$2.25/bushel corn)