



# House Committee on Agriculture

Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman

1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-2171  
[www.agriculture.house.gov](http://www.agriculture.house.gov)

## Statement of Chairman Bob Goodlatte Committee on Agriculture Business Meeting to consider H. Con. Res. 424 September 21, 2006

The purpose of today's business meeting is to consider H. Con. Res. 424, the 25x'25 vision. With gasoline prices and other fuel costs remaining high, I believe it is appropriate to discuss how agriculture commodities, the source of most ethanol and biodiesel, can make a larger contribution to our nation's energy supply.

In June, I introduced H. Con. Res. 424 with Ranking Member Collin Peterson, Representative Musgrave and a group of twelve other bi-partisan original cosponsors. This resolution, also known as 25x'25, recognizes the importance of agriculture in meeting our energy needs and sets a noble goal for America, where by the year 2025, 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States will be provided by renewable sources from America's agricultural, forestry and working lands.

Although corn is often the first commodity that comes to mind in discussions about renewable fuels, there are a wide variety of agricultural products and bi-products that can be converted to clean, renewable energy sources. In fact, there are sources of renewable energy in every one of the 50 states. These can be provided from resources such as wind, solar, hydro and biofuels. Renewable energy already produces 6 percent of America's total energy today and by 2025 it will be possible to produce 70 billion gallons of ethanol, or 25% of our projected gas use, from farm and forest resources, including many waste materials.

25x'25 is a vision we can all get behind, as over 280 groups already have, including agriculture and forestry groups as well as business and environmental organizations. Over 20 of our Nation's governors along with over 70 bi-partisan co-sponsors in the House have recognized that while this goal will not easily be achieved it is worth striving for. They all recognized that we need a national goal, a vision of where we want to go to ensure a sustainable, secure energy future for us and for future generations.

Achieving this vision will bring with it many benefits, including reducing our dependence on foreign oil, creating new jobs in rural America, saving consumers money and bringing new technologies to the market. This resolution provides a path to do just that.

I now turn to the Ranking Minority Member, Collin Peterson, who is one of the strongest advocates for renewable fuels in the Congress.

###