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Bob Inglis unveils action plan for energy security

By Jenny Munro
STAFF WRITER

A dozen or so budding engineers from Northwest Middle School demonstrated a tiny race car running on a hydrogen-cell during the unveiling of U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis' action plan for energy security.

Inglis told the sixth graders that it was their "patriotic duty" to help wean the United States from its oil addiction.

"It was difficult," said Justin Dribodt, who added that the pilot project sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers gave him some ideas for his future career.

"I've always like to build and work with stuff," he said.

Inglis said that South Carolina, with its plethora of companies and universities involved in energy research and production, has the opportunity to be a leader of the alternate fuel industry. He pointed out research at Clemson University and the University of South Carolina as well as other colleges is a plus. Also, Michelin North America is a leader in the rolling resistance move, which saves on gas use. GE builds wind turbines at its Greenville plant.

The United States must face the issue and develop alternate energies, he said. Currently more than \$500 billion a year is going to foreign oil producers -- more than the current U.S. defense budget.

"We must have a choice in fuels of the future or they will be able to buy and sell America with our own dollars," he said.
