

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**A Path Toward the Broader Use of Biofuels: Enhancing the Federal  
Commitment to Research and Development to Meet Growing Needs**

**HEARING**

June 13, 2007

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis  
(SC-4)**

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing on how the federal government can encourage research and development of biofuels, a promising alternative energy source.

One of the great advantages of biofuels is the regional diversity of feedstocks. Different parts of the country can “customize” production based on the energy sources that make the most sense for their area. So, while pines or sugar cane might make sense for ethanol production in South Carolina, the Chairman’s state of Texas might benefit more from soybean and vegetable oils for biodiesel production. The advantage then is that every part of the nation can take part in developing biofuels that will make economic and agricultural sense, and, in turn, will yield commercial benefits.

However, that versatility will also present a challenge when it comes to infrastructure development. While oil tankers and massive pipelines support our national gasoline industry, and have the potential to support our biofuels industry, the regional availability of feedstocks may demand additional models for production and distribution. I hope that any biofuel legislation we discuss considers and accommodates this regional component.

We are only in the beginning stages of what I hope will be a very profitable bio-fuel energy economy, promoting energy security, protecting the environment, and creating jobs for American workers. It is important that we not only encourage current technologies and methods of production, but also facilitate the development of next generation systems that will make biofuels even more efficient and affordable.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses, and welcome any suggestions they might have for how we can improve this proposed legislation.