

PROPOSED POLICY POSITION

URGING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALCOHOL FUELS

Background

The American farmer is experiencing the most serious decline in the farm economy since the Great Depression. Farmers have the capability to produce corn, milo and other crops suitable for alcohol fuel production. In 1985, over \$6 billion was paid to American farmers for diversion and deficiency programs resulting from farm surpluses, and this figure rose to over \$10 billion for calendar year 1986. Diversion and deficiency payment figures do not include net outlays of the Commodity Credit Corporation and other programs designed to assist farmers.

The technology to convert farm products to alcohol and to use alcohol as a motor fuel is readily available and is vigorously being pursued by other countries, such as Brazil, which have a heavy dependence on imported oil. The recent Energy Security report, requested by the President and prepared by the U. S. Department of Energy, shows that oil imports will reach or exceed 50% of U. S. oil consumption by the mid-1990s, and continued dependence on imported oil jeopardizes our nation's economic and military security.

American farmers can play a vital role in ensuring our energy security by producing crops for alcohol fuel production, and it is in the best interest of the United States to encourage and utilize crop production capabilities to immediately lessen our dependence on unstable foreign sources of oil.

Recommendation

The Southern Legislative Conference encourages each state through their colleges and universities to revitalize their efforts to earnestly pursue the further development of technologies to enhance the use of crops produced by American farmers and other renewable resources for the production of alcohol fuels.

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(Sponsor: Representative Frank Willems, Arkansas, Vice Chairman, Energy
Committee)

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