



## Congressional Briefing

### Brownback: Reduce U.S. oil use

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From Journal-World Staff Reports

**Sen. Sam Brownback** wants to reduce American dependence on oil.

[The Associated Press](#) reports: "A bipartisan group of senators unveiled legislation yesterday they said would save 2.5 million barrels of oil a day within a decade and 10 million barrels a day by 2031. The country now uses a little more than 20 million barrels of oil a day, most of for transportation. ...

"The legislation would include tax breaks, as much as 35 percent, and loan guarantees to get automakers to switch from producing gas guzzlers to gas-electric hybrids, advanced diesel or other alternative technologies.

"Among those joining Lieberman and Bayh as co-sponsors were Sen. Ken Salazar, a Democrat from Colorado, and GOP Sens. Sam Brownback of Kansas, Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, and Norm Coleman of Minnesota.

"This is a bipartisan effort,' Brownback said in an interview. 'This is just good common sense. This is where the public wants us to go. They want us to not be so dependent on foreign oil.'

"While lawmakers largely rejected proposals to curtail oil use in transportation in crafting energy legislation earlier this year, Brownback predicted political support for the new proposals.

"There was a mental sea change in America when gas hit \$3 a gallon,' he said."

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