

Wisconsin Ag^{Connection}

Senators Unveil Plan to Reduce Foreign Oil Dependence

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U.S. Senator Sam Brownback joined several senate colleagues Wednesday to introduce a bipartisan plan that would reduce foreign oil consumption to improve America's national security. The bill, called the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act, is co-sponsored by senators Joe Lieberman (D-CT), Evan Bayh (D-IN), Ken Salazar (D-CO), Norm Coleman (R-MN), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

"It's good common sense to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and it's doable in the near-term," said Senator Brownback. "This dependence limits our foreign policy and national security options, and there is broad public support for reducing oil consumption. We can create market incentives to use technologies available Wednesday to deal with a problem that will only get worse unless we take action."

The bill features three main components: setting goals for reducing national oil consumption, market-based tax credits and R&D funding to encourage producers and consumers of fuel-efficient vehicles, and expansion of the renewable fuels infrastructure.

The plan sets targets for reducing oil consumption, such as lowering our usage by 2.5 million barrels a day by 2016. Wednesday, we import approximately 2.5 million barrels a day from the Persian Gulf region. Overall, the United States consumes about 20 million barrels a day.

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