

Wiggins

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Colorado agriculture can play a role in weaning U.S. off foreign oil

Musgrave pushes Congress to support a renewable fuel initiative

Washington, DC: Today, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) pushed Congress to support a sensible new initiative that bolsters the role of farm and ranch products in lowering our nation's dependence on foreign oil. She introduced a resolution supporting the "25 x '25 Initiative," a plan to domestically produce 25 percent of our energy from renewable resources by the year 2025.

In recent years, valuable advances have been made in producing alternative fuels from biomass and agricultural products such as corn, sugar beets, and feedstocks. As a result, alternative fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel are emerging as viable alternatives to petroleum. In addition, vast amounts of open land in Eastern Colorado are providing greater opportunity for the development of renewable electrical power from wind energy.

"Agriculture is well suited to play a fundamental role in renewable energy. With continued innovations, farms can become factories that produce a new generation of fuels," said Musgrave. "In rural Colorado, we know the success of small businesses and the level of family income rely on the agricultural

markets. By transforming farm commodities into fuels, families and businesses will reap the benefits.

"Also, record amounts of electric power is produced as energy companies harness wind power, a clean and safe resource. In fact, wind turbines are already producing enough electricity to serve nearly 2.3 million homes around the nation."

Specifically, the Congresswoman's resolution focuses on supporting the 25 x '25 Initiative by utilizing our nation's plentiful farm, forestry, and ranch lands. The United States contains tremendous renewable energy resources, including bio-fuels, biomass, methane digesters, wind power, and solar power.

Congresswoman Musgrave was joined by Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo (CO-06) in introducing her resolution, H. Con. Res. 369.

Earlier this year, President George W. Bush focused on America's dependence on foreign oil in his State of the Union Address, "Keeping America competitive requires affordable energy. And here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world. The best way to break this addiction is through technology."