



Prepared Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
25 x '25 Press Conference
11 a.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Helping the United States becoming more focused on home-grown, renewable energy and less reliant on foreign sources of oil is one of the most important things Congress will work on this year.

I like to say renewable energy is just like the Campbell's soup commercial—it's good, good, good. Growing our own energy is good for rural America, it's good for the environment and it's good for our energy independence. That's why I have championed an effort with Senator Salazar to steer our energy policy even more toward renewables. The 25 x '25 goal is to have the United States get 25 percent of its energy from our own farms, ranches and forests by the year 2025.

This is a bold initiative. I often get asked if I think it's achievable. The answer is a simple "yes." It's not only achievable, but it's necessary. Necessary because everyone wants to talk about shaking our growing dependence on foreign fossil fuels, but we will never have that opportunity in our lifetimes and maybe not in our children's lifetimes if we do not aggressively identify domestic energy options.

America's farmers, ranchers and foresters are a key component to doing just that.

This morning the 25 x '25 National Steering Committee is releasing the action plan agreed upon by their 400 members. Their plan lays out a series of policies that will help our country chart a path toward this renewable energy goal.

It's important to keep in mind that not everyone will agree with each of the recommendations. This is simply a blueprint for policymakers to consider. I believe it will help our discussion and move us forward to our 25 x '25 renewable energy goal.