



TAFT CELEBRATES HARRISON ETHANOL PLANT GROUNDBREAKING

HARRISON COUNTY (January 30, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft today celebrated the groundbreaking of Harrison Ethanol’s new ethanol biorefinery facility in Cadiz. Once completed, the plant is expected to create 107 jobs onsite and 60 contract jobs, with a \$7.2 million payroll. The company estimates that the plant will pump \$85 million in annual cash flow to the region.

“As energy prices escalate and our energy needs grow, we must focus on curtailing our dependence on foreign oil and developing our own clean, affordable sources of energy,” said Taft. “Today’s groundbreaking confirms Ohio’s strength as an agricultural state and reaffirms our commitment to renewable energy sources.”

The State of Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Development, offered Harrison Ethanol a competitive incentive package, including an Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit, an Ohio Investment in Training grant and other financing.

During his 2004 Business and Investment Mission to Japan and Taiwan, Governor Taft and representatives from Harrison Ethanol met with potential investors for this project. Partly as a result of the meeting, Itochu International, Inc., became the company’s first Japanese investor.

The Taft Administration is working to boost the ethanol industry at the state level through the following efforts:

- Taft’s Jobs Cabinet has enabled the Ohio Departments of Development and Agriculture to work with agencies to streamline processes for potential ethanol plants to deal with the state, an effort that was able to assist Harrison Ethanol.
- In 2002, Taft signed into law Senate Bill 144, creating the Ethanol Incentive Board and making ethanol plants eligible for Ohio Air Quality Development Authority financing.
- In his 2004 State of the State Address, Taft established the biofuel industry as a key sector for Ohio and announced a specific goal to attract ethanol producers to the state.
- Last year, Governor Taft signed an executive order directing the Ohio Department of Transportation to use at least one million gallons of bio-diesel fuel and 30,000 gallons of ethanol per year, and to purchase only new cars that are able to run on both unleaded fuel and ethanol.

“My administration is moving forward with Ohio’s commitment to biofuels, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, decreasing emissions and increasing opportunities for the Ohio biofuel and farm industry,” Taft said.

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