



OHIO NEWS NOW

March 18, 2006

## Bush's speech offers ideas for ethanol, clean coal key to Ohio

[✉ Email to a Friend](#)   [🖨 Printer Friendly Version](#)

WASHINGTON -- As many Ohioans had hoped, President Bush offered ideas for how to increase production of an alternative fuel made from grains including corn, a popular crop with farmers in the state.

Bush pushed for more fuel from ethanol and other alternative sources Tuesday in his State of the Union speech. He also addressed the future of the Iraq war and pushed privatized health savings accounts to deal with skyrocketing health care costs.

As the linchpin to the domestic part of his speech, Bush announced a plan to increase clean-energy research at the U.S. Department of Energy by 22 percent.

Part of that will be to develop new methods of producing ethanol from wood chips, stalks or switch grass, which Bush said would help replace more than 75 percent of U.S. oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

"Our goal is to make this new kind of ethanol practical and competitive within six years," he said.

Liquid Resources of Ohio LLC, the only active ethanol producer in the state, has seen the once-struggling market for various types of ethanol recover since last fall, when Congress answered Bush's call to double the required production of ethanol.

There is no ethanol production for auto fuel in Ohio, although it makes up 10 percent of the gasoline blend Ohio motorists get from the pump. Liquid Resources makes it for laboratories and industrial plants, as well as a type that is altered for use in gasoline.

The Medina-based company plans to start producing forms of ethanol that can make up 70 or 85 percent of auto fuel, depending on the time of year.

Groundbreakings for two new ethanol plants \_ in Cadiz and Bloomingburg \_ were held in the last 10 days. The Bloomingburg plant is sponsored by Cargill Inc., an international maker of agricultural products. Harrison Ethanol LLC, a consortium of Ohio farmers and business owners, owns the Cadiz project.

Another part of Bush's energy initiative focused on alternative power sources for homes and businesses.

"To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants; revolutionary solar and wind technologies; and clean, safe nuclear energy," Bush said.

Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, said that should help coal-rich Ohio, which is among about 20 states in the running for a \$1 billion coal-fired plant that would be virtually pollution free.

But one of the Democrats challenging DeWine for senator, Iraq war veteran Paul Hackett, doubts Bush's sincerity.

[ONN Special Features](#)

- Home
- Ohio News
- National News
- Politics
- Weather
- Sports
- Business
- Health & Fitness
- Caring for Ohio
- Lifestyle
- DIY OHIO
- Discover Ohio
- Columbus Cars
- Programming
- Contact ONN

SEARCH

"A former oil executive telling us we are addicted to oil is like a tobacco company executive complaining that their employees take too many smoke breaks," he said.

Bush chastised members of Congress for promoting protectionism and blocking his free trade agreements. But Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, said Bush needs to impose higher tariffs on Chinese goods, especially when U.S. exports to China are charged higher duties.

"Reciprocity is not protection or isolationism, that's fairness," Ney said.

Two Ohioans with ties to the war sat in first lady Laura Bush's box: Cmdr. Kimberly Evans of Mason in southwest Ohio, the first female Navy officer to command a provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan; and Lisa Clay of Aurora in northeast Ohio, the widow of Marine Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Clay, who was killed in Fallujah in December.

Bush described Daniel Clay's dedication to the cause in Iraq, quoting from a letter he left for his family: "I know what honor is. It has been an honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to."

Lisa Clay put her hand over her heart and mouthed the words "thank you" to Bush while the packed gallery applauded her and Daniel Clay's parents, Clarence and Sara Jo Clay of Pensacola, Fla.

Bob Hoffman, whose 27-year-old son Justin was killed in action in Iraq in August, was a guest of Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Ohio. A strong supporter of the war, Hoffman has helped organize a mobile memorial to fallen soldiers that is traveling around the state. He said he doesn't know the best course of action, but he likes that Bush asked Americans to stay behind the effort.

Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, another of DeWine's opponents, also had a guest \_ Mary Pease, 53, of Avon Lake. She said her husband, Dan, 56, enrolled in the new Medicare drug program, but because of an application problem, it failed to cover all of his medications for bipolar disorder and a heart condition that has left him disabled for 12 years.

"The program was not well thought out. There should have been more lead time for people to study their options, and there should have been more community training," said Pease, who eventually got Brown's office to help fix the problem.

Bush took a more positive view of the situation.

"Our government has a responsibility to help provide health care for the poor and the elderly, and we are meeting that responsibility," he said, drawing the most pronounced boos of the night.

---

(Associated Press Writer Matt Leingang contributed to this report.)

*Copyright 2006 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.*

All content © Copyright 2004 - 2006, WorldNow and Dispatch Productions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#). It is the policy of [The Dispatch Broadcast Group](#) to provide equal employment opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, disability, military status, citizenship or any other legally-protected status in accordance with applicable local, state and federal law. [Jobs at ONN.](#)



Advertisement