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## S.C. lawmakers give Bush high marks for speech

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WASHINGTON -- President Bush's emphasis on alternative energies in his State of the Union address Tuesday night was music to the ears of South Carolina lawmakers.

"It was the best speech he's given," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "An effort to develop a hydrogen-based economy could be huge for South Carolina."

Bush proposed doubling funding for alternative energy research over the next 10 years and giving a tax credit for investing in alternative energies.

"He gave clear conclusions and was bold," Graham said, who also praised Bush for the moderate tone of his speech.

"It's tremendous," said Rep. Bob Inglis, chairman of the House Science Research subcommittee. "Now is the time to put pedal to the metal on developing hydrogen and other fuels of the future. Finding a replacement fuel like hydrogen would give American energy security, create new jobs and clean up the air."

In the State of the Union address, Bush called for a doubling of money for basic research in physical sciences.

"That was the hydrogen caucus you heard cheering," Inglis said, referencing the applause Bush received in the portions of the speech devoted to hydrogen and other fuels of the future.

To decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil, Bush announced an initiative that would increase clean-energy research by 20 percent.

"He's absolutely right that we're addicted to oil. That addiction is the biggest threat to our long-term national security," Inglis said.

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., issued a comment on the speech through his press office.

"We're right at the cusp of developing some incredible fuel alternatives that will change the way we produce fuel in our country for the next several decades," DeMint said.

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