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## **town hall meeting**

# **Inglis supports energy innovation**

## **Reduced reliance on oil emphasized**

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With gasoline prices topping out at nearly \$4 per gallon, the national energy crisis - along with health care and the economy - will no doubt be on voters' minds as they head to the polls in November.

And with Congress deeply divided about solutions to high gasoline prices, American dependence on imported oil and funding new technologies, energy is what political contenders have been talking about.

U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis gave local residents the chance to voice their concerns about energy Tuesday night as he made a stop at the Westside Library in Spartanburg.

It was the second of four town hall meetings Inglis is hosting across the Upstate to introduce his Energy Action Plan.

The plan includes expanding renewable energy, nuclear power and solar and clean coal technologies, reinventing the automobile to meet higher fuel-efficiency standards, stepping up U.S. drilling efforts and refining capacity and improving building design to reduce energy use.

"Our national security demands a new Apollo mission - one aimed at the garage rather than the moon," Inglis said. "We can't take the Jed Clampett approach. You don't just sit there hoping that up from the ground will come a bubbling crude. We need to find something else and quickly. We need to pursue fuels of the future with more passion even than we pursued getting more oil."

He said the goal was to hear from as many voters as possible, and the input he takes away from the meetings will help shape his agenda when he returns to

Capitol Hill.

"They (politicians) all say they're feeling our pains (at the pump), but I never hear them give a straight answer about what they plan to do," said Tom Littlejohn of Spartanburg. "It was nice to see one of them talk about it specifically, although I know it's not going to be something that gets fixed overnight."

Inglis, 49, of Travelers Rest serves as chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, and he is co-chairman of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, which he helped launch.

He is seeking his sixth term as the 4th Congressional District representative, a seat he won back in 2004 after giving it up in 1998, honoring a pledge to limit himself to three terms.

Promoting renewable energy and finding ways to reduce the country's dependence on oil have been his highest priorities since he returned to Congress, he said.

But Democrat Paul Corden, a Spartanburg businessman who will face Inglis in November for the seat, said Inglis' voting record suggests otherwise.

He said Inglis voted against two bills, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which were designed to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

"Energy is one of the largest issues that will face us in the future, and credits for the development of alternative sources are important," Corden said. "It's a complicated issue, and it's made even more difficult when you have a congressman who has voted against research for clean, renewable energy sources."

Inglis said he voted down the bills because they contained incentives for oil and gas production that "weren't necessary."

"At \$113 per barrel there's no need to give provisions," he said.

The plan Inglis presented Tuesday included loan guarantees and tax incentives to help streamline the licensing process for new nuclear plants and research the next generation of nuclear power.

He also supports research and deployment of cellulosic ethanol, a biofuel produced from wood, grasses or the non-edible parts of plants.

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