NEWS

Inglis to hold town meeting on energy

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What do you think needs to be done to break America's dependence on foreign oil?

Your can tell Fourth District Rep. Bob Inglis during a town meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at USC-Union. The subject will be "Breaking Free: The Inevitable Fight for America's Energy Freedom; What will it take to win?" The focus of the meeting will be America developing a comprehensive energy strategy to break its dependence on foreign oil through freedom of choice in transportation fuels.

"If we drill, conserve and develop new sources of oil but at the end of the day, the market is still controlled by OPEC, then what have we accomplished?" Inglis said. "We need a bold strategy for breaking free that uses market forces and American innovation to bring alternatives to the market."

While he favors drilling for more oil and gas offshore "in a safe and environmentally responsible way" and the construction of more refining capacity, Inglis also advocates conserving fuel with higher fuel economy standards and the use of clean diesel fuel. As co-chairman of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus, Inglis favors the development of hydrogen, which he describes as "the ultimate fuel of the future." He also supports the development of cellulosic ethanol, expanding tax incentives for gas-electric hybrids and creating incentives for plug-in hybrids.

On energy generation, Inglis favors extending the renewable energy production tax credit which he said will help the United States overtake Germany as number one producer of wind energy by the end of 2008. He also favors the continued development and deployment of solar energy; the building of more nuclear power plants; and the development of clean coal technology.

Inglis will also be going door-to-door Thursday afternoon and will tour the LSP facility on U.S. 176.