



For Immediate Release
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Got Ethanol?

SPEAKER, WEATHERS LEAD CHARGE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Columbia, SC- Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers, along with Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell, have led the charge in the 2006 legislative session to offer incentives for the production of alternative fuels and purchase of flex-fuel vehicles powered by ethanol (E-85).

Speaker Harrell said, "In a time of high gas prices and uncertain supply, we felt it necessary for the Legislature to do all it could to improve our alternative fuel infrastructure. I appreciate Commissioner Weathers' role in this initiative. Commissioner Weathers brings the agricultural perspective to this effort, and he will be a part of the Strategic Commission that will look long-term at alternative fuels in the Palmetto State. I look forward to working with Hugh in the coming years to improve South Carolina's energy independence."

The incentives outlined in the 2006 Budget are

- Rebate of the \$300 sales tax for an in-state purchase of a flex-fuel or ethanol vehicle
- \$.05 incentive payment to retailers for each gallon of E-85 or biodiesel sold
- \$.30 per gallon production credit for biodiesel produced from feedstock other than soybean oil
- \$.20 per gallon production credit for ethanol production
- A separate piece of legislation provides a production credit for ethanol production

Commissioner Hugh Weathers said, "South Carolina is among the states leading the way in alternative fuel production and use. The members of the General Assembly, the Speaker, and the Department of Agriculture worked together to create these incentives to offer to the consumers and citizens in South Carolina. Alternative fuels represent a new opportunity for our farmers, and a new source of renewable energy for consumers. I'm looking forward to South Carolina's continued role in the development of alternative fuels."

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