## Biofuels: Crude realities

Gal Luft
Institute for the Analysis of Global Security



### We all agree that it's time to **Set America Free**























Gary L. Bauer, President

Voice to Help Protect Life, Marriage, Family, Faith, and Freedom







#### National Defense Council Foundation

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit think tank serving US national security interests since 1978

### Key questions

- 1. Biofuels today make 2% of the transportation market. Can they make a real difference?
- 2. Can we have a true national market for biofuels or are they only for Mid Westerners?
- 3. Can we develop transportation and distribution infrastructure?
- 4. Is our government up to the task?

Alcohol is our enemy!



#### We don't tax fuel coming from them.....









But we tax fuel coming from them.....







What did I lose there?



# Provide incentives along the supply chain



For under \$3 billion alcohol pumps can be added to a quarter of the nation's service stations. This amounts to only a fraction of the more than \$12 billion that have been spent by the oil industry to introduce reformulated gasoline.

# Every new car sold in the US must be a flexible fuel vehicle



...but...

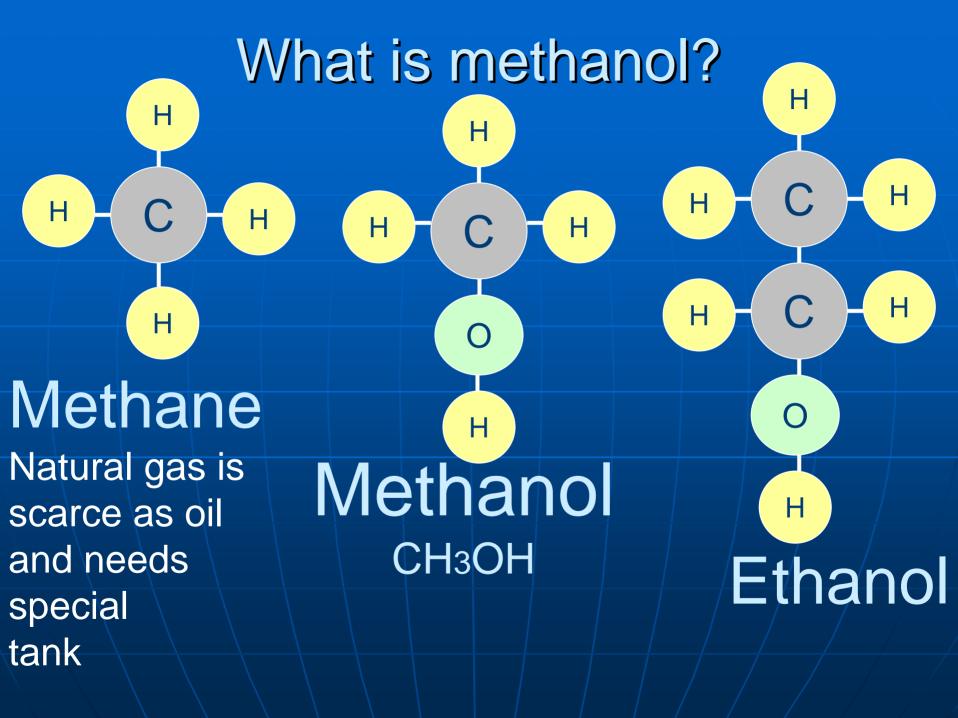
# We need to think beyond ethanol GEM FFV One tank can hold them all

G: Gasoline

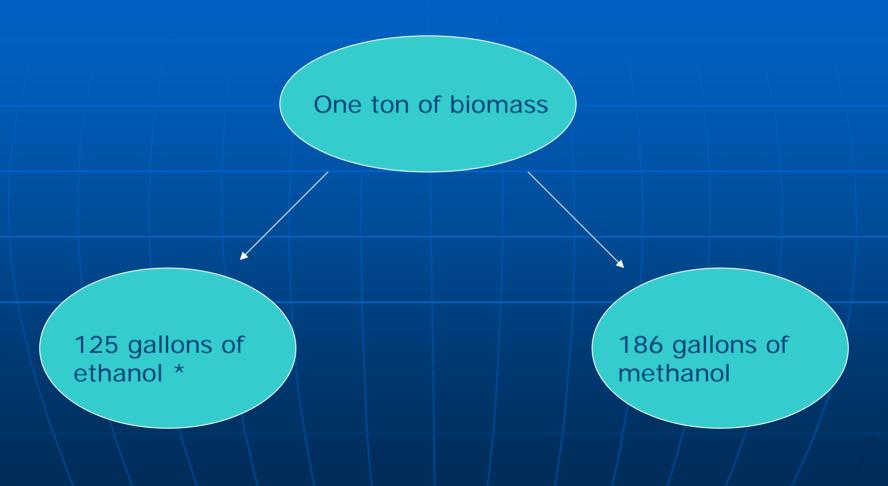
E: Ethanol

M: Methanol





### Chemistry vs. biology



\*BTU equivalent, based on logen technology

# Energy Policy Act 2005: A case of alcohol discrimination

- Number of times ethanol mentioned 76
- Number of times methanol mentioned 3



#### **Crude Realities**

- 1. Corn production is limited.
- 2. Cellulosic ethanol has a ways to go.
- 3. If we are serious about expanding ethanol supply, sugar cane is the only game in town.

# Energy independence

VS.

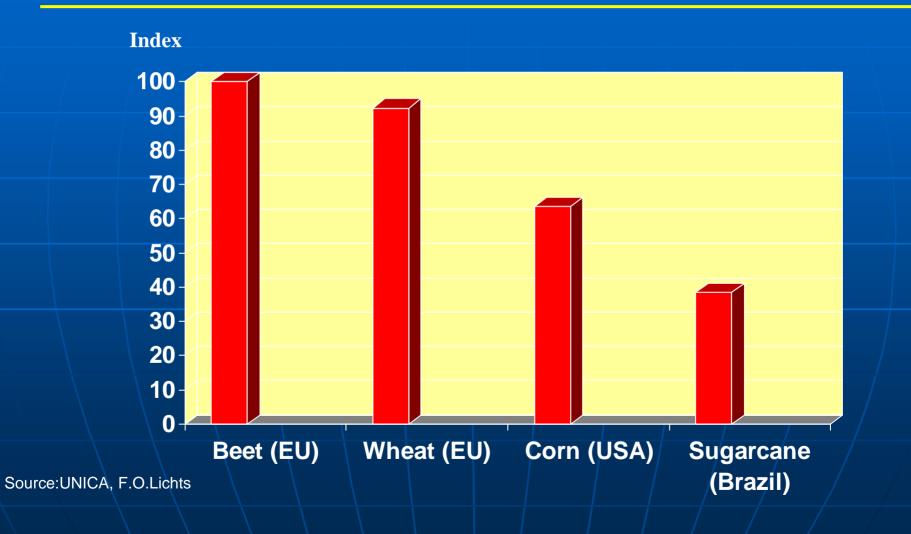
**Energy security** 

### Ethanol energy balance

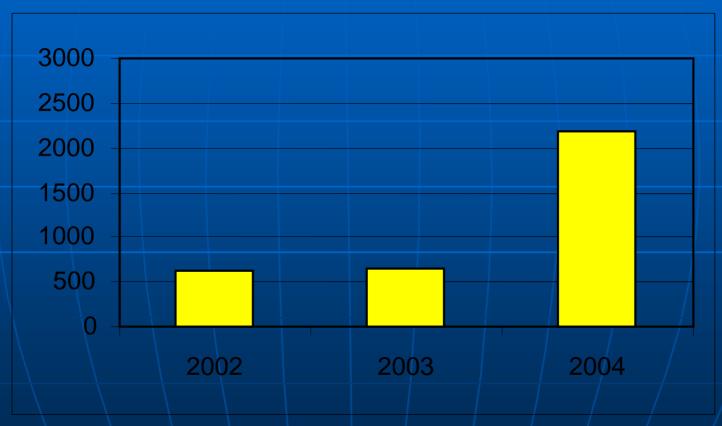
Raw Material	Energy Output / Energy Input
Wheat	1.2
Corn	1.3 – 1.8
Sugar Beet	1.9
Sugar Cane	8.3

Sugarcane is the best feedstock for ethanol

### Sugarcane is the cheapest feedstock



# Brazil's ethanol exports are rising (in 1000 kl)



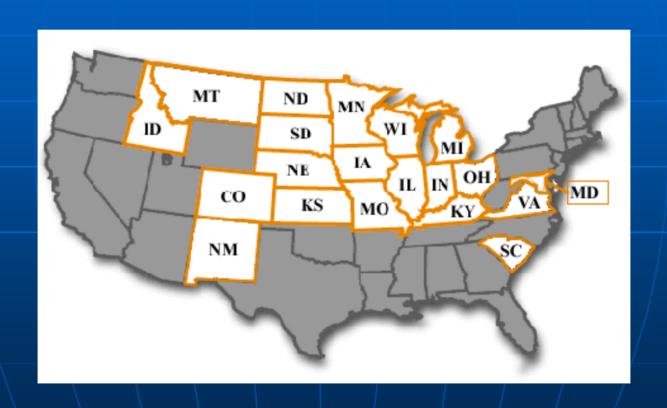
Source: Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade

# Sugar ethanol is scaleable

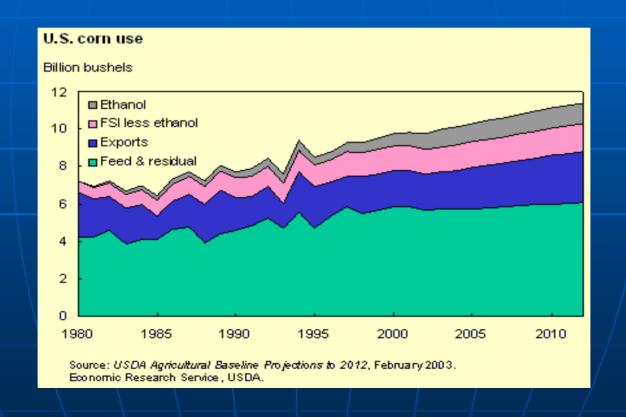
"Today no more than 7.5 million acres are used to produce 4.5 billion gallons. But we have in Brazil more than 250 millions acres that can be taken as a potential area to expand agriculture respecting all preservation areas, specially our rain forests."

Brazilian Association of Sugar Cane and Ethanol Producers

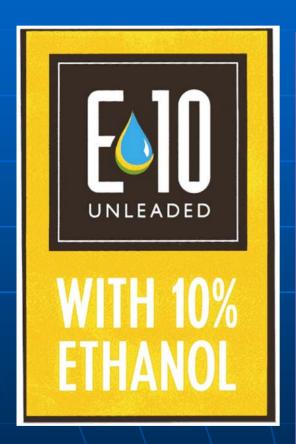
#### Over 70% of Americans have no access to ethanol



# Total current capacity: 103 plants making 4,929 mgy Under construction/expansions: 50 plants making 3,015 mgy



# Start with low blends and build from there



The Brazilian experience: % ethanol in gasoline

1977: 4.5%

1979: 15%

1981: 20%

1985: 22%

1998: 24%

1999: 20 to 24%

**SINCE 2002** 

25%



### Mapping the interests

**Sodbusters and agribusiness:** only ethanol and preferably from corn. Pro-cellulosic. Keep the tariff and don't touch our farm subsidies.

Tree huggers: only ethanol, only high blends, only from renewables and don't touch the rainforests.

Do gooders: good for development but no food for oil.

VCs: Cellulosic is cool.

Cheap hawks: As much as possible of everything and quickly.