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Bayh Joins Bi-Partisan Group Seeking to Curb Oil Consumption

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(Capitol Hill-AP) A bipartisan group of senators including Indiana Democrat Evan Bayh is looking to slash U.S. oil use by more than ten percent within a decade. Their proposed legislation includes tax breaks and loan guarantees to get automakers to switch from producing gas guzzlers to cars that are gas-electric hybrids or use other technologies. It also includes incentives for developing alternative fuels. Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman warns that if the U.S. doesn't act, it'll be subject to "the whims" of small oil-producing countries. Kansas Senator Sam Brownback says there's growing public support for saving energy. He says "there was a mental sea change" when gas hit three dollars a gallon. The long-term goal is to cut U.S. consumption by ten million gallons a day. The country now uses a little over 20 million barrels of oil a day.

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