

J. DENNIS HASTERT  
14TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

THE SPEAKER

5 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1314  
(202) 225-2976  
FAX: (202) 225-0697

dhastert@mail.house.gov  
www.house.gov/hastert



27 NORTH RIVER STREET  
BATAVIA, IL 60510  
(630) 406-1114  
FAX: (630) 406-1808

119 WEST FIRST STREET  
DIXON, IL 61021  
(815) 288-0680  
FAX: (815) 288-0743

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1314**

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**CONTACT: BRAD HAHN**  
**(630) 406-1114**

# **HASTERT BACKS GRANT FOR ST. CHARLES MANUFACTURER**

*Bison Gear works to improve electric motor efficiency*

BATAVIA – Congressman J. Dennis Hastert on Friday announced that the National Science Foundation has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Bison Gear & Engineering in St. Charles to determine the feasibility of a breakthrough electric motor design.

Supported by Hastert, the grant will advance efforts by Bison's Research & Development team to create a new, more efficient, electric motor for use in a variety of industrial machinery. Currently, about 40 million inefficient small motors are used in America's manufacturing industry.

The research will take place at the company's Design Studio, also located in St. Charles.

"This is an example of how an innovative company like Bison can make a very real difference for our nation," Hastert said. "When this research is successfully completed, the reduction in operating costs and increase in productivity will significantly benefit manufacturing companies, employees, and communities throughout the country."

Specifically, the research could result in an increase in small motor efficiency from the current average of 60 percent to more than 80 percent. It would provide significant advantages for manufacturers by retrofitting motors into current industrial machinery, reducing electricity consumption and operating costs. It would also provide a competitive advantage to manufacturers of new industrial machinery by reducing operating costs and increasing productivity.

The grant comes as Congress works to pass a much-needed national Energy Bill, which would make the United States less dependent of foreign oil, expand the use of renewable

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fuels like Ethanol and Biodiesel, and ultimately create more than a half-million new jobs in the manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and technology sectors.

Approved by the House in April, the legislation passed the Senate Tuesday, and now moves to a conference committee of both chambers to reconcile differences.

“Our first step will be to develop the algorithms that define the motor,” said Ron Bullock, Bison Chairman and CEO. “Then we will build the motor in an entirely new way. We will incorporate new magnetic composites and include other advances in material science and three dimensional modeling.”

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