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Chávez fears alliance

The April 17 story *Chávez rips U.S.-Brazil deal* seems to suggest that Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's strident opposition to ethanol is "mysterious." However, it should be a mystery to no one. The launch of the Inter-American Ethanol Commission, led by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, together with the U.S.-Brazil agreement to promote ethanol, represent a direct political threat to Chávez's egomaniacal fantasy to become the "Great Bolivarian Leader" of Latin America based upon petrodollar largess.

An ethanol alliance between the United States and Brazil will help build better political and economic relations throughout the Americas for both countries as they build a Western Hemisphere ethanol market. It is an alliance between the two biggest democracies in the Americas to promote economic growth through free-market policies and democratic politics that Chávez fears most.

Such leaders thrive on the darkness of despotism, not the bright light of freedom.

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