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To Group A-AND-R-DOCKET@EPA  
cc  
bcc

Subject Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0380

Dear Administrator Johnson,

The cattle industry is suffering from inflated corn prices stemming from government mandates on ethanol. I am writing you today to request that you approve Governor Rick Perry's application for a waiver of 50% of the RFS mandate.

Corn-based ethanol has unintended negative consequences for the environment and water conservation. A typical ethanol factory that produces 50 million gallons of biofuels a year will need about 500 gallons of water a minute. This places an incredible strain on our natural resources and raises serious questions about ethanol's sustainability.

Though ethanol has many negative effects, food prices have the most direct impact on Americans. Some estimate that increased biofuel demand accounts for 39% of the increase in corn prices, 21% of the increase in rice prices and 22% of the increase in wheat prices.

An important issue to consider when reviewing ethanol mandates is global hunger. Approximately 100 million people worldwide have been pushed into poverty because of escalating food prices over the past two years. A number of converging factors contribute to global hunger, but ethanol policies are the only one we can address here in the United States. In April, the United Nations called for a five-year moratorium on the production of biofuels to address the global food crisis. We must do our part in the United States and put an end to a government policy that causes food prices to rise here at home and across the globe.

Corn-based ethanol has many negative implications and it is not the solution for the U.S. energy crisis. A gallon of ethanol has about a third less energy than a gallon of gasoline, so mileage drops rapidly. Furthermore, producing corn-based ethanol requires an almost equivalent amount of fossil fuel energy. We need real alternatives to gasoline that address the energy crisis without hurting the environment or affecting food prices.

The unintended consequences of ethanol mandates demand that our policymakers reconsider laws that were meant to help the U.S. economy, not hurt it. Please take the first step toward relief by approving Governor Perry's request.

Sincerely,  
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