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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,

RFS mandates for grain-based ethanol hurt the poultry industry, and I urge you to reconsider a federal policy that unintentionally harms a major sector of the U.S. economy. Sky-high feed prices are adding billions of dollars of cost to poultry producers. Please take this into consideration and grant Governor Perry's waiver request today.

A major problem with ethanol is its impact on the environment. Though originally touted as an environmentally friendly alternative to gasoline, scientists are discovering that ethanol production has serious implications for the environment. No conclusive evidence supports claims that it helps the environment by reducing air pollutants. For example, ethanol releases high levels of nitrogen oxide -- one of the principal ingredients of smog -- when burned.

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.

Ethanol alone is not going to solve the energy crisis in the United States because it is not a viable liquid fuel replacement for gasoline. There simply is not enough corn to fuel our vehicles. Last year, the United States burned approximately one-quarter of its national corn supply as fuel, which only led to a 1% reduction in the country's oil consumption. Additionally, ethanol is not as fuel-efficient as regular gasoline, and it is more expensive to produce. We must look for better, more realistic alternatives to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

I respect the motives behind the creation of RFS mandates, but I ask that you consider the negative outcomes resulting from their implementation and approve the waiver request today.

Sincerely,  
Michael Crutcher  
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