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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 poultry industry desperately needs relief from soaring corn feed prices, and reducing the RFS mandate for corn-based ethanol will help achieve this goal. It is impossible for poultry producers to keep up with the inflated prices of corn feed, and as a result we are being forced to shut down plants and lay off workers.

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.

The effects of U.S. ethanol mandates are felt across the globe, resulting in rising prices for corn, grains, and other crops. Grains account for over 50% of the diet in some of the poorest countries in the world and the rising cost of food is detrimental to these countries. These rising food prices threaten disaster for the 160 million people worldwide who survive on less than fifty cents a day.

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.

Approve the 50% waiver of ethanol mandates today!

Thank you,  
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