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To Group A-AND-R-DOCKET@EPA
cc
bcc
Subject Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0380

Dear EPA,

I urgently ask that you grant Governor Perry's waiver request today. Since 2006, corn prices have increased by 137%, and the protein industry is suffering directly from these outrageous prices. Corn feed is a necessity in our business, and we cannot afford to keep up with the rising costs caused by our own government's ethanol mandates.

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.

There is no doubt that ethanol production has significantly affected the price of corn, but there also is general consensus that ethanol mandates and subsidies have contributed to skyrocketing food prices in general. For the last 15 years, U.S. food prices have averaged a 2.5% increase in each year. In 2007, U.S. food prices rose 4% - the highest since 1990 - and are expected to rise 6% in 2008. With prices continuing to rise at the grocery store, Americans cannot afford to replace fuel with food.

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.

I do not believe that our country benefits from today's ethanol policies, and I ask that you reevaluate them in light of the harm they are inflicting on important industries in the U.S. Please approve Governor Perry's request today.

Thank you,
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