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To Group A-AND-R-DOCKET@EPA

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

Administrator Johnson,

I support Governor Perry's request for a 50% waiver from RFS mandates. Due to soaring prices of corn feed caused by ethanol mandates and subsidies, the protein industry is suffering from profit losses, layoffs and plant closings, and the situation will only worsen if the mandates aren't addressed immediately.

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.

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.

Please do your part to help an important U.S. industry and grant relief from a policy that is threatening our ability to provide jobs and food for America. I urge you to grant Governor Perry's request today.

Sincerely,
SHERRY WILLIAMS
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