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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.

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.

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,
GUADLUPE BURGOS
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