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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,

It is imperative that you grant Governor Perry's waiver request to provide immediate relief for the state of Texas, and the nation, from skyrocketing food costs.

Ethanol mandates have significantly affected Texans across the state. Texas is the nation's largest beef-producer and ranks in the top 10 states in poultry/egg and dairy production. The soaring prices of corn feed have created a crisis in these industries, and the effects can be seen in grocery stores, restaurants, and on the tables of families across Texas.

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.

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.

It is vitally important that the federal government address a policy that artificially increases food prices and negatively impacts the Texas economy. I urge you to take action by approving Governor Perry's waiver request.

Sincerely,  
W.S. Dittman  
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