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To Group A-AND-R-DOCKET@EPA

cc

bcc

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

To the EPA,

I believe that our country's ethanol mandates are hurting our economy. I am writing to ask you to grant Governor Rick Perry's request for a waiver of 50% of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) mandate for ethanol produced from grain.

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.

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.

Please take action immediately and address the many negative consequences that ethanol mandates are inflicting on the U.S.

Thank you,
Tony Turnce
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