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To Group A-AND-R-DOCKET@EPA

cc

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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.

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.

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.

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

Thank you,
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