

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2008

Mr. Stephen L. Johnson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

In light of recent weather disasters across the nation, we urge you to act now to reduce the amount of ethanol that must be blended into the fuel supplies.

As you know, domestic food prices are rising twice as fast as inflation and the rising price of basic commodities has been passed along to consumers. The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is a significant factor in the increased cost of commodities which is causing severe economic harm for low-income Americans and livestock producers. A wide range of experts—including FAPRI, IFPRI, IMF, UNFAO, and the World Bank—have linked rising commodity prices to recent increases in corn ethanol production.

Poor weather, along with export restrictions, energy prices, and global demand are also among significant factors contributing to rising commodity prices. Severe flooding in the Midwest and drought in the South have already produced devastating losses in this year's corn crop and continued adverse weather could further decrease this year's already depleted crop. We are already seeing the impact of decreased domestic corn production on prices in the U.S., currently holding at record highs.

This year, approximately one-third of America's corn crop will be converted to ethanol to meet the RFS. Although supply will likely be drastically decreased from years past, the demand imposed by the RFS will dramatically increase. By acting now to reduce the RFS mandate, the Administration can immediately impact the supply of corn that will be used for food or feed and lessen the severe economic harm facing millions of Americans.

We urge you to act now to reduce the Renewable Fuels Standard.

Sincerely,

  
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Fred O. Lucas

John Boozma

Alfonse Catalano

K. J. Hall & Co.

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Nathan Deal

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