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**Congress of the United States**  
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April 28, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

As I am sure you are aware, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 provided the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency with the authority to waive the renewable fuels mandate if there are problems with the domestic supply of renewable fuels or if implementing the mandate would severely harm the economy or the environment. Given the impact of the burgeoning and heavily subsidized ethanol industry in the U.S., I urge you to direct EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson to begin the process of waiving the standard in whole and as quickly as possible.

Under the mandate, the U.S. is required to produce nine billion gallons of fuel from renewable sources this year and 11 billion gallons next year, with exponential increases through 2022. To date, domestic corn, already a heavily subsidized commodity, has been the primary source for biofuel and the mandate has encouraged farmers to focus agriculture production away from food manufacturing and toward fuel production. The Congressional Research Service estimated that ethanol production will utilize nearly a quarter of the U.S. corn crop in the 2007-2008 timeframe. One of the cumulative impacts of this artificial increase in demand for corn, a staple in food production and animal feed, has been a dramatic increase in corn price. Corn is being sold at nearly six dollars a bushel today, as compared to two dollars a bushel nearly two years ago. This, in turn, is contributing to increasing food costs. No doubt you are familiar with the recurring media reports, both domestically and internationally, highlighting the sustained increase in food prices.

While the intended goal of the renewable fuels mandates was to reduce national dependence on foreign oil, the new standard has done little but add stress to an already strained economy. Additionally, the ethanol production is amassing a dubious environmental record, with concerns being raised over whether the positive aspects of the biofuel are actually being outweighed by the negatives factors associated with increased corn production.

Surely, the unintended consequence related to corn production and food prices are adequately harmful to the economy to warrant action. As the percentage of corn being used for

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ethanol production rises and the renewable fuel standard increases, a failure to take action will lead to worsening problems. I urge you to direct EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson to waive the renewable fuel standard. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
Member of Congress