

November 14, 2013

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned coalition of livestock and poultry organizations, write to urge you to cosponsor legislation which would reform the inflexible Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) by eliminating the corn-based ethanol mandate. Our coalition supports the efforts of Senator Feinstein (D-CA) and Senator Coburn (R-OK) as they introduce the Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2013, which would mitigate the devastating impact the RFS has had on America's livestock and poultry industries. This bipartisan legislation is a simple, effective solution to the problems facing the livestock and poultry industry and would eliminate the corn-based ethanol mandate currently required by the RFS and provide relief to consumers across the country. This legislation would help the corn ethanol industry move to a sustainable business model while easing the pressure of the agricultural feed supply for those of us raising livestock and poultry for American families, and export overseas to help improve the trade deficit.

Unfortunately, history has clearly shown that current law does not take into consideration industries like ours when relief is needed, even under the most extreme circumstances. The most recent example was the drought of 2012 when the U.S. experienced one of the worst droughts in the last half a century, resulting in a significant spike in corn prices. Despite having nine governors petition the EPA for relief, there was no adjustment to the rigid RFS resulting in significant economic losses to our industries. Even though corn and soybean production in 35 states reached historic lows with over 1,821 counties being declared disaster areas by the United States Department of Agriculture EPA did not act. In our view, the denial of relief in 2012 confirms that the RFS program is broken and cannot balance the needs of feed and fuel.

Therefore, we strongly believe that it is time for Congress to reexamine and fix the broken corn-based ethanol mandate and allow the free market to determine the best use of our valuable food supply instead of government mandates. This common sense approach taken by Senators Feinstein and Coburn would maintain the cellulosic and advanced biofuel mandates, providing the incentive for the development of next generation biofuels that do not rely on food-based feedstocks.

Our coalition of livestock and poultry organizations ask you to support this legislation to overhaul the corn ethanol mandate in the RFS and to continue working to bring commonsense back to Federal policy on corn-based ethanol and the RFS. To cosponsor or to request additional information, you or your staff can contact Matthew Nelson in Senator Feinstein's office or Tripp Parks in Senator Coburn's office.

Sincerely,

American Meat Institute
California Dairies, Inc.
California Poultry Federation

Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Indiana State Poultry Association
Iowa Turkey Federation
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Turkey Federation
Nevada State Dairy Commission
North American Meat Association
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Northwest Dairy Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
The Poultry Federation
South Carolina Poultry Federation
South East Dairy Farmers Association
Southeast Milk, Inc.
Texas Poultry Federation
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington State Dairy Federation
Western United Dairymen
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association