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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4402

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October 10, 2012

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator:

In the face of corn shortages and escalating prices brought on by wide-spread droughts throughout the United States, I urge you to exercise your waiver authority to modify the corn-ethanol requirements for the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS).

The Energy Independence and Securities Act of 2007 (EISA) increased the original RFS. This measure was intended to facilitate the continued use of corn-based ethanol as new biofuels were developed to account for a larger share of the total RFS. In 2006, the RFS originally mandated 7.5 billion gallons of biofuels (primarily derived from corn) to be produced in the year 2012. However, the mandate was increased to 13.2 billion gallons by revisions to the original RFS, which have placed significant financial strain on Utah's livestock industry and consequently the state economy.

According to recent USDA data, 23 percent of U.S. corn crop yields are in good or excellent condition, and 50 percent are rated as poor to very poor. This 23 percent is in contrast to a 70 percent good or excellent rating by the USDA earlier this year.

Drought and heat continue to create lower corn production, resulting in economic hardship. The logic behind RFS was to save both the environment and supplement the economy by utilizing the readily available U.S. resource of corn. However, the same Act that was to free us has Utah's economy in shackles due to drought.

The USDA expects the problem to continue to worsen, and predicts corn yields will be 146 bushels per acre with food prices increasing 3 to 4 percent by next year. In response to the reality of economic hardship in the wake of this natural disaster, I implore you to alter the corn grain-ethanol mandate of the RFS to alleviate burden placed upon the Utah economy by this drought and extreme heat.

Sincerely,



Orrin G. Hatch  
United States Senator