



INDEPENDENT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF TEXAS, INC.

November 6, 2007

Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

As representatives of cattle, dairy and poultry producers, we strongly oppose any efforts to amend the 2007 Farm Bill with an increase in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). **Please vote against any RFS increase that may be offered as an amendment to the Farm Bill.**

The existing RFS, enacted in 2005, has already spurred rapid development in the renewable fuels industry. The current RFS policy extends through 2012, and we believe it should be given a chance to work before additional mandates are added. Our members deserve certainty and predictability in government energy policies. They will be adversely affected if the government induces a series of supply shocks through sudden and dramatic increases in the RFS.

We strongly support efforts to encourage the commercialization of ethanol from cellulosic biomass and similar sources, but we note that by all accounts, this commercialization is still some years away. If Congress chooses to increase the RFS for cellulosic ethanol – a decision that should be made only in the context of energy legislation, not the Farm Bill – then the law should be clear that this portion of the mandate is to be met only with non-grain-based fuels.

We wish to stress the need for a balanced approach to energy policy, which takes into account impacts on the livestock, poultry and dairy sectors. There is a great deal of excitement for capitalizing on the resources and expertise of U.S. agriculture to create domestic sources of energy. This interest is warranted, and it could result in beneficial outcomes. But, the long term success of domestic biofuels production depends upon a good policy balance that recognizes the potential consequences of an increase in the RFS for grain-based ethanol.

Finally, adding an RFS expansion to the 2007 Farm Bill will delay passage of legislation that is important to rural America. It will greatly complicate and slow the House-Senate conference on the farm bill, and it is bad public policy that will harm our industries, which are the largest customers for America's grain and oilseed farmers.

The Farm Bill is not the place for this debate, and we request that you vote against efforts to delay the Farm Bill by increasing the RFS. We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Independent Cattlemen's Assn.
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Cattle Feeders Assn.
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn.

Texas Pork Producers Assn.
Texas Poultry Federation
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assn.