

December 18, 2009



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FEEDERS
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The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
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Dear Senator Cornyn:

Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) urges you to support the joint disapproval resolution Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) announced she would file regarding the recent Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) finding that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are an endangerment to public health and the environment.

TCFA represents cattle feeders and feedyards in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma— one of the nation's largest beef producing regions, marketing almost 30% of the nation's fed beef or 6.5 million head annually.

TCFA is extremely concerned about the potential impacts that the EPA endangerment finding could have on feedyards and other agriculture operations, because it sets the stage for GHG regulation under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and would give EPA unprecedented control over every sector of the U.S. economy. It is irresponsible to issue this kind of finding, especially given the recent controversy surrounding the scientific validity of alleged human contributions to climate change. Regulation of greenhouse gases should be based on science, and it should be thoughtfully debated and approved by Congress through a democratic process, not dictated by EPA.

While the endangerment finding itself does not regulate GHGs; unless Congress acts, it sets in motion EPA regulation of GHGs from stationary sources and the setting of new source performance standards for GHGs. EPA indicated that it also would be developing an approach to regulate GHGs from hundreds of thousands of small operations, including farms and buildings.

Agricultural sources are generally not required to obtain permits for greenhouse gas emissions, but regulation of GHGs under the CAA may for the first time trigger such regulation. Given the fact that America currently has over 2,000,000 farms, it would be virtually impossible to permit a majority of them. It would also impose massive regulatory compliance costs on producers, which could force many operations out of business.

Congress never intended for the Clean Air Act to be used for greenhouse gas regulation. While the Act has done a good job of cleaning up pollutants, it is not adequately equipped to address global climate change. Any attempts to use it for this purpose would be devastating to U.S. agriculture, which actually provides a significant net benefit to the climate change equation. Rather than being subject to overly-burdensome regulations, agriculture should be viewed as

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a model for how changes in production practices and the utilization of innovative technologies can provide proven environmental benefits. Agricultural producers are the true stewards of the environment.

The aptly named endangerment finding endangers American jobs, competitiveness, economic growth and food security. Please voice your opposition to the GHG endangerment finding, and support the disapproval resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R".

Ross Wilson
President & CEO