



State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez

Governor

August 20, 2012

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I am writing to ask for your consideration in granting a waiver from the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) mandate. As you know, the nation is suffering from the effects of a severe, multiyear drought. This prolonged drought is having a direct impact on all sectors of the economy and is afflicting consumers through increased food prices.

In a forecast issued July 11, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture reported a 12 percent cut in domestic corn production. Unfortunately, many expect their estimate to be cut again in considering the August prediction. This has led to record commodity prices for corn, wheat, and soybeans.

New Mexico's agricultural economy is primarily composed of dairy and range livestock production. These two industries require large feed inputs for their animals due to the drought, resulting in an exponential increase for feed costs.

To help alleviate the negative impacts caused by severe drought conditions, I urge you to consider granting an immediate waiver from the RFS. Approving this waiver would help to ease the burden of increased feed costs, food products supply, and the continued hardships current economic conditions are inflicting on producers and consumers alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor

JW/ya