

September 25, 2012

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our companies represent a significant portion of the nation's food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry in the United States. The industry generates sales of \$2.1 trillion annually, employs 14 million workers and contributes \$1 trillion in added value to the economy every year. We are directly and significantly impacted by the supply constriction resulting from this summer's severe drought and we urge you to use your authority under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to adjust the 2013 ethanol Renewable Fuels Standard.

The administration has designated more than half the nation's counties as disaster areas, and the drought is negatively impacting yields of many crops -- particularly corn. Food commodity prices are currently rising significantly, on top of several years of price increases already felt throughout our economy. In the case of corn, August prices were 12 percent above the year before despite planting a record number of acres with corn in response to last year's high prices. In response to the severe weather, average monthly prices increased by 33 percent from May through August. Nowhere is the supply contraction more serious than in the meat, poultry and dairy complex.

When crafting the renewable fuels law Congress foresaw the potential need for temporarily adjusting the ethanol mandate when it included language in the EISA stating that, "implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy or environment of a State, a region or the United States." We are now in the most extreme situation since the mandate was adopted, and it is critical that your authority be exercised now.

Beyond our borders, flexibility would also mitigate the drought's impact on global food security. As the world's largest producer and exporter of corn and other commodities, supplying food and feed to many developing countries, the U.S. must maintain its long standing commitment to alleviating hunger and malnutrition.

In using your current authority at this time we believe that all the competing demands for corn will be better able to work through this difficult crop year.

Respectfully,



Mr. Gary M. Rodkin
Chief Executive Officer
ConAgra Foods



Mr. Kendall J. Powell
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
General Mills, Inc.



Mr. Brad Alford
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Nestle USA, Inc.



Mr. J.P. Bilbrey
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Hershey Company



Mr. John Bryant
President and Chief Executive Officer
Kellogg Company



Mr. Sean Connolly
Chief Executive Officer
The Hillshire Brands



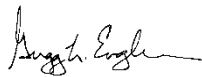
Mr. William B. Cyr
President and Chief Executive Director
Sunny Delight Beverages Company



Mr. J. Alexander M. Douglas, Jr.
President
Coca-Cola North America



Mr. Brian J. Driscoll
Chief Executive Officer
Diamond Foods, Inc.



Mr. Gregg L. Engles
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Dean Foods Company



Mr. Robert J. Gamgort
Chief Executive Officer
Pinnacle Foods Group LLC



Mr. Kenneth E. Guise, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc.

Ms. Melanie L. Healey
Group President, North America
The Procter & Gamble Company

Mr. Kees Kruythoff
President
Unilever North America

Mr. Christopher D. Lischewski
President and Chief Executive Officer
Bumble Bee Foods, LLC

Mr. Reid V. MacDonald
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fairbault Foods, LLC

Mr. Apu Mody
President
Mars Food North America

Ms. Denise M. Morrison
President and Chief Executive Officer
Campbell Soup Company

Mr. Gregory R. Page
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Cargill, Incorporated

Mr. C. Larry Pope
President and Chief Executive Officer
Smithfield Foods, Inc.

Mr. Richard K. Smucker
Chief Executive Officer
The J.M. Smucker Company

Mr. W. Anthony Vernon
President, Kraft Foods North America
Kraft Foods Global, Inc.