ETHANOL

30215 Stellamar
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
May 19, 2008

Mr. Joseph Knollenberg
30833 Northwestern Hwy
Suite 100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Dear Representative Knollenberg:

I am a student at Mercy High School, and I am currently studying Congress in my government class. Over the past few years, the issue of alternative fuels has risen.

One such alternative fuel is ethanol. While switching over to ethanol, or incorporating it into gasoline may seem to be a good idea, the negative effects are already beginning to affect the economy. Ethanol is derived from corn, plant waste, or switch grass. 6.5-7.5 million acres of corn were planted in order to meet this year's demand for biofuel alone. The predictions for the future also look dire. If alternative fuel research continues to pursue grain based fuels, then the effects may wreak further havoc on the economy.

As it is, everyday items including bread, milk, eggs, and chicken have increased ten to twenty cents in the passed year alone. The rising prices of these necessities are forcing poorer members of society to switch over to less healthy food. Even the middle class is struggling to make up these drastic rising prices.

What I feel is most unfortunate about this situation is that it is preventable. Exploring other alternatives to fossil fuel is a simple way to solve this economic trouble. Hydrogen and electricity are other possible substitutes for gasoline, and they will not have the negative effects. I urge you to research other possible fuel alternatives before ethanol causes further economic damage.

Sincerely,

Regina Gilmour

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