

Obama Snubs Appeals for U.S. Food; Demands Still More Bio-Products

by Marcia Merry Baker

Sept. 17—Even before September—the start of Fall harvest in the U.S.—a barrage of appeals to the Obama Administration had already come forward, asking for lifting the Federal mandate for biofuels—the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS)—in order to protect the food supply. With corn scarce from drought, it should not go for ethanol. Better to eat food, than burn it. But Obama has rejected all appeals.

On Sept. 4, Lyndon LaRouche, in a staff briefing, warned that, “The U.S. food supply is in a state of desperation. This year’s harvest? Something has to be done about it. *We don’t have the food supply to feed the people of this nation!*”... This idea of using food as fuel has got to be banned immediately. There are indications of people doing that [mobilizing], but this has to be made a scandal.”

Below is the listing of the major groups, individuals, and statements of appeal, for the Federal government to act to protect the food supply.

The U.S. accounts for over 30% of the world corn output, and is the leading exporter. But this year, the drought impact will cut the corn harvest by an estimated 13% from 2011, at the very least. At the end of this corn marketing year, corn carryover stocks are estimated to represent only 2.5 weeks of usage—a danger level, as compared with the recent norm of at least two to three months worth of usage.

Meantime, the RFS remains in effect, which obliges 13.2 billion gallons of biofuels to be produced—almost all of it corn ethanol, representing potentially 50% of this year’s corn harvest.

As for the pro-ethanol counter-campaign, which argues that the food supply isn’t really threatened by corn lost to biofuels, because it isn’t lost 100%—distillation byproducts can be fed to meat animals—this is as fallacious as it sounds. True, ethanol uses just the starch part of the corn—about one-third of the kernel, leaving the remaining two-thirds of fiber, oil, and pro-

tein, for animal feed. But if the entire kernel were utilized 100% in food crops—and the entire agro-industrial capacity involved in making, handling, and distributing this retrograde fuel were producing food—we would be better fed, and probably sane enough to pursue advanced energy systems—high-tech fossil fuels, and nuclear power. Low-tech, low-energy-density biomass fuels of all kinds are a disaster, even when there is no drought.

Fuelish Obama

Obama has not only ignored requests to suspend corn-for-ethanol, but has reiterated his support for biofuels, and called for even more farm capacity to switch out of food-production into a new “bio-based economy,” to produce biomass for bio-products, from soy ink, to paints, glue, plastics, fabrics, etc. This is the short road to famine.

How can he do this? It was explained by the Arkansas *Baxter Bulletin*, one of dozens of U.S. media publicizing the need to end the biofuels mandate: “It always is foolish for a country to order the burning of its food supply, but it takes a special kind of depravity to do it in the midst of a severe drought” (Phil Kerpen, Sept. 4).

But besides depravity being Obama’s nature, deliberately pursuing such a hunger policy is in the blueprint for depopulation, promoted in recent decades by British imperial financial and commodity circles. Obama’s agriculture policies are strictly made-in-London. A recent expression is the British Royal Society report, calling for rapidly reducing the world’s people, because the planet’s capacity for food production is lessening. Bio-products implements this evil view.

During the mid-2000s, the U.S. and other leading nations were induced to legislate national mandates for biofuels, corn, wheat, and other grains for ethanol, edible oils for biodiesel (soy, palm, rapeseed, etc.), and

FIGURE 1



President Obama has not only brushed aside requests to suspend corn-for-ethanol, but has reiterated his support for biofuels, and a new “bio-based economy.”

sugar cane for gasohol. The fabricated cover story was the British imperial-green myth that “alternative” fuels emit less greenhouse gases, and diminish global warming. Plus, the companion myth was promoted that food-for-fuel is “renewable” and a means to national energy independence.

Under President George W. Bush, the alien, subversive laws for biofuels mandates were passed in the energy acts of 2005, and updated in 2007. The demoralized farmbelt welcomed biofuels as a means to make money and survive, amidst otherwise low corn prices on the deregulated markets. The share of corn going to ethanol, out of total domestic corn use, rose from 13% in 2005, up to nearly 50% today. In 2011, ethanol use exceeded the amount of corn going for livestock feed for the first time ever.

Then, over the last six weeks, as the drought impact on corn, soy, and other crops became obvious, Obama stepped up his biofuels/bioproductions drive. He has been in Iowa repeatedly, courting the ethanol vote in the state, which has 41 corn biofuels distilleries. On his Aug. 14 visit there, his campaign spokesman Jan Psaki said, “He absolutely believes in it; he thinks it’s a driver of the economy here and a key component of renewable energy.”

Obama was back in Iowa on Sept. 8, along with the First Lady. On Sept. 11, Agriculture Secretary Tom

Vilsack told an ethanol-makers meeting in Washington, “I will tell you this: that I have conveyed and will continue to convey to [EPA Administrator Lisa] Jackson and others at the EPA and to the country, my support for this industry.” Vilsack was addressing an event held by the Growth Energy group, which represents ethanol distillers.

Going beyond ethanol, the White House Rural Council on Aug. 7 issued a Fact Sheet for Obama’s new vision of a “Bio-Based Economy,” boasting that, “From household products [e.g., ink, glue, fabric, plastics] made of homegrown crops, to remarkable advanced biofuels that are powering America’s ships and aircraft, the bio-based economy is strengthening

our nation while bringing more jobs and economic security to rural America.”

Put Him Out of Office; Bring Back Food

For the eating public, the sane response to the food crisis perpetrated by Obama is to say, “Mr. President, you are very fuelish. But you are a damn fuel. We don’t want you in office any more.” The myriad demands for waiving the corn-ethanol mandate, don’t yet call for waiving Obama from the White House, but the import on the food supply is clear.

July 30. Livestock Producers: National leaders of livestock and animal-feed producers filed a petition to the Obama Administration, to suspend the RFS. The 19 groups included all the top dairy, cattle, poultry, sheep, and meat and feed processing sectors of the country. They issued a 19-page report, giving maps and charts documenting the scope of the crisis. It stated near the end, that:

“Timing is everything... The predicted devastating impact on corn yields and resulting high prices for feed [from the drought and unregulated commodity prices] pose a severe threat to livestock and poultry producers. Many will choose to leave livestock farming altogether, and that, combined with overall herd reductions across these industries, will cause significant job losses across all regions where livestock and poultry are raised.”

The petition was sent to not only the EPA, the agency with the green-lie mandate for so-called “clean” alternative fuels, but to the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, and to the infamous Cass Sunstein, Obama’s director of Information and Regulatory Affairs, in the Office of Management and Budget.

The petitioners made the strong point that the EPA has the discretionary power to waive the RFS, under emergency conditions, even without an official request from a governor, as the applicable law also specifies as a decision-trigger for the EPA. The law states, according to the report, that “the [EPA] Administrator on his own motion,” in consultation with the Agriculture and Energy Departments, “can exercise authority, and implement a waiver (Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(7)(A).”

The associations include the National Pork Producers Council, the Milk Producers Federation, the National Chicken Council, the National Cattlemen Beef Association, and others. The report and petition are

available from the Pork Producers (NPPC.org), whose president-elect, Randy Spronk, in Minnesota, said: “America’s pork producers are extremely worried ... about having feed for their animals.”

July 31. Cargill CEO: Gregory Page, the CEO of Cargill, the biggest of all the agro-cartel commodity firms, said on CNBA, that the RFS needs “to be addressed,” which is corporate-speak for partially or otherwise suspended. In market mumbo-jumbo, Pope said, “What we see are 3 or 4% declines in supply, leading to 40 to 50% increases in prices, and I think the mandates are what drives that price elasticity which I think needs to be addressed.”

The previous week, CEO Larry Pope of Smithfield, the world’s largest pork producer, wrote a guest column for the *Wall Street Journal* calling for partially waiving the corn-for-ethanol RFS mandate. In August, Smithfield began importing corn for hog feed, from Brazil, for its North Carolina operations.

Bipartisan Call from Congress


Aug. 1. Congressmen: Over a third of the House of Representatives—156 members—sent a joint letter to EPA director Lisa Jackson, asking her to lift the mandatory requirement for biofuels, given that 40% of the corn crop, now hit by drought, is going for ethanol. The letter stated, “Relief from the Renewable Fuels Standard is extremely urgent because another short corn crop would be devastating to the animal agriculture industry, food manufacturers, food service providers, as well as consumers.”

The lawmakers told the EPA: “We strongly urge you to exercise your authority and take the necessary steps to protect American consumers and the economy.”

The signator list, which is bipartisan, and country-wide, had as its lead sponsors Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Mike McIntyre, (D-N.C.), who represent districts where Smithfield is located, including its headquarters in Virginia. A third sponsor, Rep. Steve Womack (R-Ark.) is from the home state of Tysons, the world’s largest poultry processor.

Aug. 8. U.S. Senators: A group of 34 Senators, one-third of the Senate, called for the EPA to lessen biofuels use of corn.

Aug. 9. Governors: Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley (D) and Delaware Gov. Jack Markell (D) were the first two of eight governors to ask the EPA to issue a waiver on the RFS. Such a request was made



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only once before in the history of the RFS, by Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), and denied.

Aug. 10. Food Processors: A request to the EPA was made by 26 major food processing associations, for immediate consideration and action “to waive the amount of renewable fuel that must be produced under the RFS, as the U.S. is expected to experience a significant drop in corn yields due to historic drought conditions across America’s heartland.”

The 26 groups cover bakers, brewers, canneries, and manufacturers of frozen foods, snacks, dairy, seafood, and many other products, plus geographic and restaurant associations. They warned, “The increasing demand for corn needed to produce ethanol, combined with a significant reduction in overall available corn supplies due to the prolonged drought, may lead to an insufficient amount of corn available for food production.

“More than half of the nation’s counties have now been declared disaster areas and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reported that more than half of the corn crop is listed as poor to very poor. This has resulted in higher demand relative to the available supply and led to a 45% jump in corn prices in the two month period ending July 31.

“The extreme losses to grain yields, and other food crops, because of the most severe U.S. drought in fifty years, is already having a ripple effect throughout the food supply chain both in the U.S. and around the globe...”

Led by the Midwest Food Processors Association, one of the world’s largest, the signatories include the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the National Confectioners Association, the American Feed Industry Association, the National Fisheries Institute.

Aug. 14. Governors: Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe (D) and North Carolina Gov. Beverly Purdue (D) each asked the EPA to temporarily lift the annual RFS, because the corn shortage and spiking corn prices are destroying livestock producers. Purdue’s letter stated that continuing with the RFS mandate “has imposed severe economic harm to my state’s swine, poultry, dairy and cattle producing regions.” This makes four governors now appealing for relief.

As of the end of August, governors of eight states (Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia) had called on the EPA for a waiver on the RFS.

Sept. 4. United Nations: Three UN agriculture and food agencies—the World Food Program, Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development—called on world leaders to act to prevent potential food price inflation and shortages, including by reducing biofuel production.

EPA Response: Stall, Take More ‘Comment’

On Aug. 30, the EPA resorted to procedure, as its response to the overwhelming demand for an RFS waiver, and opened a 30-day period of public comment on the question.

On Sept. 11, the EPA continued its stalling on demands for an RFS waiver, by announcing an extension of a month, of its public comment period, which will now end Oct. 11. At the end of the comment period, the EPA then has 60 days in which to issue a decision on the waiver, which now will be well after the November election.

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