

May 29, 2008

Mr. Douglas R. Conant
CHAIRMAN
GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Campbell Soup Company
1 Campbell Place
Camden, NJ 08103-1701

Dear Mr. Conant:

We are writing to you, as a coalition of agricultural organizations, to express our deep disappointment with the negative "food before fuel" public relations campaign which you, your company and the Grocery Manufacturers Association have apparently authorized and funded.

Our farmer-members are surprised and offended that GMA board members would take this public stance given the long-term partnership of farmers and food companies to feed the world. In our opinion, the GMA campaign to influence US biofuels policy also falsely portrays to the public and Congress that farmers are greedy, irresponsible environmental stewards, and unmoved by world hunger and rising retail food prices.

Further, analysis by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, President's Council of Economic Advisors and others do not support the GMA contention that biofuels or grain prices are the major or significant cause of food price increases at the retail level nor a cause of world starvation. As oil prices continue to rise, you are very likely to find the position staked out in your campaign less and less defensible.

We certainly respect your right to a differing opinion regarding America's biofuels policies and your perceptions of the cost increase for the grains you use as inputs. However, those concerns can be shared in rational manner and need not be promoted via falsehoods regarding food price increases, starvation and environmental concerns.

This campaign, perceived by many as anti-farmer, may likely cause your organization and GMA member companies longer term challenges and as such we ask you to reconsider and revise the focus of your fundamental strategy and implementation tactics to influence US biofuels policies. Please know that your campaign is sowing seeds of deep anger throughout farming and rural communities toward food companies.

Exploding energy costs, food price issues, wholesale & retail margins, food safety and other environmental issues in agriculture are topics that your segment of the industry seemingly has more in common with us in production agriculture than differences. These issues need not divide us and create an unnecessary public feud. Instead we should be allies together in solving potential concerns and creating mutual opportunities for success.

In summary, we respectfully request you, your company and the leadership of GMA to reconsider your current campaign strategy and tactics and cease the attacks on farmers. We are very willing to work together with GMA and food companies to address the full range of energy, environment and food security issues of concern to us all. In your efforts to change US biofuels policy, please stop also blaming American farmers and questioning our collective ability to rise to the opportunity and challenge, as we always have, to produce plenty of food, feed, fiber and fuel.

Sincerely,
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Sorghum Producers

(Note: Personal copies sent to each member of GMA board of directors.)