TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

December 28, 2009

Ms. Lisa Jackson
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal published in Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0517, the greenhouse gas (GHG) tailoring rule.

As in previous comments submitted to your agency on the proposed endangerment finding, as well as the proposed greenhouse gas reporting and motor vehicle rules, I remain concerned that regulation of GHG will decimate Texas agricultural producers, for example cotton ginning facilities, and our state's economy.

In the proposed tailoring rule, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes the provision is necessary because the agency is planning to trigger Prevention of Significant Deterioration and title V applicability requirements for GHG emissions, increasing permitting requirements to the point that state regulatory authorities are paralyzed. While I appreciate the effort to ease the burden of GHG regulation through the tailoring rule, the existence of this rule demonstrates why EPA should reconsider the GHG efforts.

Many have noted the tailoring rule is necessary because currently proposed regulation of GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act and the motor vehicle rules will have a detrimental effect on the nation's economy; according to EPA's own analysis, the current policy will subject more than six million stationary sources to permitting requirements at a cost of more than $38 billion. I am gravely concerned that EPA continues to pursue the current GHG regulatory measures knowing the financial damage that will be caused but not having conclusive proof of the environmental benefit.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the greenhouse gas tailoring rule, and I continue to urge EPA's consideration of the impact of the GHG proposals on Texas and the United States as the agency moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Staples

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P.O. Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-7476 Fax: (888) 223-8861
For the Hearing Impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)
www.tda.state.tx.us