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[Podcasts](#)
[Campaign '08](#)
[Interviews & Downloads](#)
[Station History](#)
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[Join the KLBJ AM "Know It All Club"](#)
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Governor's Ethanol Request Sparks More Debate

8/8/2008

Newsroom

There's mixed reaction to the Environmental Protection Agency's denial of Governor Rick Perry's request to cut the federal ethanol mandate.

Officials with the Texas Farm Bureau applaud the E-P-A's decision. Mike Barnett with the Bureau says farmers have never been on the same page with the governor. I think we'd disagreed with the governor's request all along. We thought that high oil prices were behind the high cost of everything, and you know, we still continue to believe that."

The Texas Public Policy Foundation's Kathleen Harnett White says she doesn't see it that way. She says most ethanol proponents would like to attribute the increase in food prices to fuel alone. She "their economic analysis is just plain off."

To bridge the gap between the two camps, White says there should be "No subsidies, no import tariffs, no mandates. If grain-based fuels or bio-fuels are going to have a role in our energy supply, let them compete in the marketplace...and let consumers choose."

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