TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

July 28, 2011

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Texas State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for issuing the hay permit waiver to facilitate the movement of hay to agriculture producers in Texas. The drought conditions continue to have a devastating impact on producers and livestock and an end to this devastation is not predicted in the near future. The need for this waiver will extend until drought subsides, forage growth rebounds and hay is able to be harvested. Even if we received significant rains soon, too much of the growing season has passed and our hay supplies will be devastatingly short until next summer at the earliest.

Therefore, I urge you to consider a continuous suspension of permitting requirements and legal height restrictions for round hay bales and associated permit fees for carriers transporting hay each time you renew the state's drought disaster declaration.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Texas agriculture and on-going leadership in mitigating drought and wildfire problems. Please contact me if I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Todd Staples

TS/JG/jg

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