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“Trim demand for greater ethanol production goals”

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Critics of ethanol fearing an unbridled spike in food prices have been calling for rather extreme measures in recent months, and a recent editorial in the Greenville News was no different. Some are suggesting we abandon the industry entirely and start drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as an alternative. How can that possibly be a more desirable approach to energy independence in this country?

Ethanol is not the culprit in growing food prices. The exorbitant cost of fuel is reflected in our grocery bills, as growers fuel their machinery and truckers fill up semi trucks to transport food to market. In fact, a recent study published by Texas A&M confirmed that rising food prices have very little to do with the price of corn and ethanol production.

Corn-based ethanol isn't the silver bullet for U.S. fuel woes, but it has opened the door to opportunity. Dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels simply will not be acceptable forever – the status quo must change. Unlike disrupting fragile ecosystems that have been untouched for centuries just to drain a few year's worth of oil from them, ethanol is a renewable and homegrown resource.

Oil prices, food prices and the potential damage done by proposed drilling for domestic oil in pristine environments all underscore our need to pursue biofuels in this country further. Now is not the time to turn our back on ethanol.