

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you today as Members of Congress representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are concerned about the negative impact the renewable fuel standard (RFS) is having on our constituents and the state's economy. We applaud the work your administration is doing to spur economic growth across the nation, and we believe that reforming the RFS in a manner that protects Pennsylvania refineries, which directly employ over 2,000 individuals, is entirely consistent with those efforts.

It is our understanding that you may be considering a policy change to allow for the sale of ethanol fuels during summertime months, despite environmental requirements under Clean Air Act. While reasonable minds differ on whether summertime E15 is a good idea, we strongly urge you to advance permanent reforms that address the harms the current approach to implementing the RFS inflicts upon refiners, particular if summertime restrictions are lifted for ethanol.

A robust refining sector is vital to blue-collar manufacturing jobs and America's energy security. Unfortunately, the RFS program has reduced refining capacity on the East Coast and has had a devastating financial impact on Pennsylvania refineries, recently forcing one of our state's refineries into bankruptcy and pushing another to seek investors. A new study that examined the economic effects of the RFS program on PADD 1 refiners found, "EPA's proposed 2019 RFS requirements have the potential to make a number of East Coast refineries unprofitable," which "will increase the probability that one or more of these refineries may be unable to continue production."¹

Reforms to the RFS should not only benefit the agribusiness giants of the Midwest. We believe fairness to Pennsylvania dictates adoption of policies that minimize the price of tradable RFS credits called Renewable Identification Numbers (RINS); continuation of the policy of addressing harms to our smaller refineries without making conditions worse for other sized refineries; and adoption of RIN market reforms to increase the liquidity of RINS, prevent hoarding, and eliminate speculation in the market. These policies can be adopted without any harm to the farmer or biofuel producer, as years of experience have shown that high RINs prices do not stimulate any additional biofuel blending. By contrast, low RINs prices in recent months have been met with record ethanol production and use.

Unemployment in Pennsylvania is down to 4.2 percent – the lowest point since 2007. By adopting a balanced approach to RFS reforms with permanent and durable relief for refiners, we

¹ Craig Pirrong, Analysis of the RFS Program and the 2019 Proposed Standards 2 (Aug. 17, 2018)

believe you will help our state continue this historic economic growth, while also creating a win-win solution for farmers and Pennsylvania refiners.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress