



July 25, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

The United Steelworkers (USW) writes today urging Congress to follow through with proposed changes to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) designed to reduce compliance costs for independent merchant oil refiners.

The USW represents 850,000 men and women employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in public sector and service occupations.

Ethanol supporters in Congress have consistently worked to derail needed reforms to the RFS meant to address concerns raised by the USW and merchant refiners in an effort to preserve the status quo for the ethanol industry at all costs.

Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs), tradeable credits used by the EPA to track compliance with the biofuel mandate, have become valuable commodities hoarded by large blending companies. RINs are bought and sold to the highest bidders in an unregulated market characterized by fraud, making it increasingly difficult for smaller refineries, which lack the capacity or infrastructure to blend ethanol into their gasoline, to compete.

Inaction by Congress and the Trump Administration now threatens the livelihood of thousands of East Coast and Midwest refinery workers and tens of thousands of related jobs.

Escalating RIN prices drove Philadelphia Energy Solutions to seek protection in federal bankruptcy court earlier this year. Without more permanent and meaningful action from the administration, other USW employers could be forced down a similar path.

Today's hearing marks another opportunity for Congress to step up and start the process of reforming the broken RFS program. It is time for Congress to take action to protect America's refinery workers and fix the broken RFS.

Sincerely,



Roxanne D. Brown
Legislative Director

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