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August 4, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and members of the African American Chamber of Commerce of PA, NJ, & DE (AACC) we are corresponding with you because of a federal issue that is a cause for considerable concern - the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Without action soon to fix the RFS, the last remaining refineries in the Northeast could close their doors forever, taking with them thousands of direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs at a time when our members are just beginning to recover from the pandemic.

Within the past decade, the Northeast has lost 1.5 million barrels per day – or roughly 70% – of its refining capacity, making our region already more dependent than it should be on imported fuel from foreign countries. The ability to have reliable fuel production capabilities in different regions of the United States is a matter of national and energy security. And as we transition to a greener fuel economy, our region's refineries are poised to take a leading role.

The Renewable Fuel Standard is severely broken, and without reform, the ripple effects threaten the livelihoods of countless Americans, but especially those in our region. The local pump supplier, consulting engineers, members of numerous local trade unions will all suffer greatly.

The refineries in our region are in crisis, and the time for action is running out. You have the ability to take steps to protect the employers and business owners that are a part of the constituency of the AACC, and the communities where they domicile.

Respectfully,

Steven Scott Bradley

Steven Scott Bradley
Board Chairman,
African American Chamber of Commerce of
PA, NJ, & DE

CC:

Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey
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Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
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