



July 16, 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 Chemistry Council of New Jersey, I am writing to you of our membership in regard to a federal issue that continues to give us cause for significant 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 region has begun to recover from the pandemic.

The Chemistry Council of New Jersey represents a diverse range of companies involved in the business of Chemistry. Our members in New Jersey directly employ 43,802 people, and indirectly contribute 33,556 jobs to the economy. Our members rely on a stable fuel supply and a broken RFS system threatens that stability.

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 significant capital investments that they will need to make will be a major boon for businesses in New Jersey.

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. And this scenario would make our region even more dependent on foreign imports, a good deal of which are produced in countries that do not have the same robust environmental protections that we enjoy here in the United States.

A reasonable solution can be achieved that both promotes the continued use of biofuels in this country while also ensuring that America's independent refiners can continue to stay in business without the heavy and unnecessary burden forced upon them by the broken RFS program. The refineries in our region are in a crisis, and the time for action is running out. We respectfully but urgently request that

you take swift action to achieve meaningful reform on the RFS. You have the ability to take steps to protect the countless employers that our Association represent, and ultimately the family-sustaining jobs they support before it is too late. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis Hart
Executive Director
Chemistry Council of New Jersey

cc: Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey
Ron Klain, White House Chief of Staff
Brian Deese, Director, National Economic Council
Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, EPA
Seth Harris, Senior Advisor Labor Policy
Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement
Congressional Delegation of New Jersey

