



COMMERCE



Construction Corporation

August 10, 2021

Sent via First Class Mail:

Congressman Donald Norcross
200 Federal St., 5th Floor
Camden, NJ 08103

Dear Congressman Norcross:

On behalf of everyone at Commerce Construction Corporation (Commerce), I'm writing to you today to ask for your help in advocating for reform to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Without swift and meaningful action by the Biden Administration, our region's last remaining oil refineries may close their doors forever, eliminating hundreds of direct jobs and causing irreversible reverberations in our region that will impact thousands of indirect jobs, like those provided by our company.

Commerce Construction Corporation is a Marine, Land Foundation Pile, and commercial Hard Hat Diving Contractor. We have re-built the Docks @ Monroe Energy Trainer PA Refinery and have upgraded their facilities over the years to accept the largest crude oil ships that navigate the Delaware River. We typically employ 50-100 men on our larger refinery projects spanning several years duration.

Refineries, particularly those in the Northeast have one of the highest job multipliers of any industry in the country. They rely on the material support, personnel and expertise that companies like ours provide to them. Their dependence on Commerce, and many other businesses in turn supports thousands of good paying, family sustaining jobs throughout the tristate region. This interdependence is critical, and it has been a major boon for our regional economy for decades.

But the RFS in its current form threatens the continued viability of independent refiners, particularly in the Northeast, and it is therefore a direct threat to the economic well-being of our company as well. For years now, local independent refiners like Monroe Energy and PBF have been forced to buy RIN credits at exorbitant prices, and these credits have swung wildly. Additionally, it is worth noting that these expenditures have done very little to create actual benefits for the environment as noted by The National Wildlife Federation and others, or to help expand renewable fuel production, or to benefit the hard-working American farmers that it was intended to provide.

This is a critical issue for our region, and without a change to the program's current structure, the goals of the program will not be met and our national and energy security along with tens of thousands of good paying jobs will be at risk. On behalf of our company, we respectfully request that you contact the EPA and the Biden Administration and ask them to take swift and meaningful action to address the out-of-control costs associated with the RFS before it is too late. The economic livelihoods of many businesses in our region and of thousands of people employed by companies like ours are depending on it. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Kundla
Business Development Manager
Commerce Construction Corporation

CC: Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania
Governor John Carney, Delaware
Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey
Michael Regan, EPA Administrator
Ron Klain, White House Chief of Staff
Brian Deese, Director, National Economic Council
Senator Robert Menendez

Senator Cory Booker
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, EPA
Seth Harris, Senior Advisor Labor Policy
Cedric Richmond, Sen. Advisor & Dir. of Pub. Engagement
Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor