



**Delaware County
Chamber of Commerce**

Driving Business Forward.

June 2, 2021

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

RE: Reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard to Save America's Independent Refiners

On behalf of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard ("RFS"). In its current state, the RFS is causing an unprecedented financial hardship to America's independent refiners, especially those in the Northeast. Without a rebalancing of the program, these refiners may disappear forever, taking with them over 1,000 direct jobs and tens of thousands more that indirectly rely on these facilities, while also greatly diminishing our country's energy security.

When Monroe Energy restarted the Trainer Refinery in 2012, there was a collective sigh of relief here in Delaware County, and for the many generations of workers who have been employed there; providing them with a lifetime of family-sustaining work. Restarting their facility has not only proven valuable to the direct employees who got their jobs back; it has also been a boon to our regional economy as well. And since then, Monroe has been a vital partner in the economic revitalization of our county and to the energy industry in Pennsylvania.

It takes a lot of support to operate a facility like Monroe Energy, and many local businesses here in Delaware County and throughout our region depend on the work opportunities the refinery provides. In addition to the nearly 500 highly skilled employees who work at the facility full time, hundreds of talented contractors perform work on site every day, including members of the Philadelphia Building Trades. While this provides a major benefit to Delaware County, their impact reverberates throughout our tristate region. The refinery collectively provides millions of dollars of direct tax benefits to local municipalities, school districts, the County and the Commonwealth. Monroe also has a reputation for doing great work out in the community, with many employees volunteering their time and effort supporting a wide variety of charitable endeavors.

The current state of the RFS threatens all of these crucial benefits that Monroe and other independent refineries provide to their respective communities, and without reform, these facilities risk closing their doors forever. Monroe and other independent refiners are vital to our national and energy security, and this was highlighted by the recent cyber-attack which shutdown

of the Colonial Pipeline. While states south of Delaware experienced gas shortages and price spikes, our region didn't experience anything like this because we have refineries right here, providing the transportation fuels we need for pleasure use and to propel our economy.

A more balanced RFS program has the potential to benefit farmers and support the expansion of renewable fuel use without creating an insurmountable financial burden for America's independent refiners. It is simply unsustainable in its current form, and significant change is needed.

I respectfully request that you to take action now. As we continue to climb out of the depths of the pandemic, our region cannot afford to lose a major employer like Monroe Energy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Trish McFarland
President, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

CC: 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
Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania
Congressional Delegation of Pennsylvania