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Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership of our great nation and humble dedication to public service. As county elected officials from the Greater Philadelphia region, home to more than 4 million people, we are heartened that you have provided tremendous support during your long career to the men and women working union jobs. Your advocacy has helped to advance the lives of countless working families, especially those in our region.

We are writing in hopes that we can count on you to be there for them again by taking action to reform America's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) now. Your support for strong reforms will have a real impact on protecting independent refineries that employ and serve Pennsylvanians. These hard-working people, many of whom are union members have helped to ensure America's energy independence and security.

Unfortunately, as we saw with the Colonial Pipeline cyberattack, our energy supply chain is vulnerable, and the shutdown negatively affected many Americans almost immediately. While other states south of Delaware saw severe product shortages and price spikes, our region was spared because we still have a handful of refineries left on the East Coast. We thank your administration for its quick work to assist Colonial in their efforts to restore service to the pipeline.

The RFS decree that requires renewables to be blended into our transportation fuels has created an impossible mandate with independent refiners, leaving them no alternative but to purchase Renewable Identification Numbers (RIN) credits, which are skyrocketing in cost due to a combination of high demand, decreasing supply, speculation in the market by non-refiners, and flawed program design. Independent refineries now devote more financial resources to RINs than all other expenses combined, including union wages and benefits. This is simply unsustainable and, unfortunately, puts the viability of our few remaining independent refineries at risk for survival. That also risks making our nation more dependent on foreign energy sources.

To be clear: America's independent refiners fully support incorporating renewables into their processes, reducing their carbon footprint, and the use of renewables in the nation's fuel supply. Our region's independent refiners want to play a leading role in our nation's green energy transition, which includes the move to products such as sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel, and more. But they will never have the opportunity to do so unless swift action is taken to reform the RFS.

While the RFS was well-intentioned, it has since gotten significantly off-track. However, if we take action now, we can protect union jobs and strengthen our energy and national security. Again, thank you for your leadership and public service. We stand ready to work with your administration to reform the RFS.

Sincerely,



Dr. Monica Taylor
Vice-Chair



Kevin M. Madden
Council Member



Elaine Paul Schaefer
Council Member



Christine A. Reuther
Council Member