



September 22, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to you on behalf of the businesses, large and small, that the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce (GCCC) represents due to a federal issue that is giving 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 the South Jersey regional economy is still struggling to recover from the pandemic.

The Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce works to promote Southern New Jersey as an economic catalyst of the tri-state region and to develop and sustain a strong business community. The organization represents many businesses that provide goods and services to the regional refineries. From pipe manufacturers to mechanical services providers, local restaurants and more – the volume of indirect jobs needed to support these operations is enormous. Studies have shown that this job multiplier is even larger here in the South Jersey region than almost anywhere else in the country and many of these jobs are the family-sustaining, blue-collar jobs for which President Joe Biden advocates.

The recent shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline may have been a relatively short-lived event, but it demonstrated how quickly our country's economic activity could come to a standstill in the face of a widespread fuel shortage. Businesses depend on having reliable access to fuel in order to run their businesses. While this incident did not have significant impacts north of Washington D.C., this was in large part due to the fact that our region was well-supplied thanks to the local refiners. Imagine what the impacts

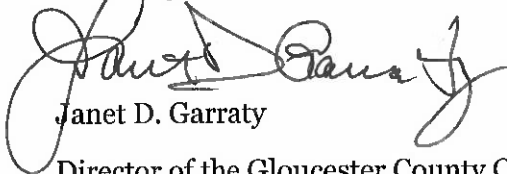
would have been if the remaining refineries in the Northeast were not producing fuel for the regional business community at this critical time.

Within the past decade, the Northeast has lost 1.5 million barrels per day – or roughly 70 percent – of its refining capacity, making South Jersey more dependent than it should be on imported fuel from foreign countries. We experienced the adverse impacts of these closures just last year here in Gloucester County, with PBF Energy being forced to idle a significant portion of its Paulsboro Refinery to survive the adverse economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. Despite this partial closure, many Gloucester County residents and businesses still rely on the jobs, economic activity and fuel produced not only at Paulsboro, but at Monroe Energy's refinery in Philadelphia and PBF Energy's Delaware City Refinery. The East Coast and our county can't afford to lose more reliable fuel production capabilities or jobs.

The RFS is severely broken, and without reform, the ripple effects threaten the livelihoods of countless Americans, but especially those in the South Jersey region. 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 the South Jersey region are in a crisis and the time for action is running out. The GCCC respectfully urges you take swift action and achieve meaningful reform on the RFS. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet D. Garraty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janet" being more prominent and the last name "Garraty" following in a similar style.

Janet D. Garraty

Director of the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce