



November 17, 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 Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (GRCA) and our nearly 1,000 member companies, we are writing you to express our strong support for meaningful reform to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). For many years, the RFS has not lived up to its original purpose, and the recent spike in Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) credit costs has created a dire scenario for the independent refineries that supply the Northeast. These forced input costs, coupled with the highest rise in inflation in 31 years, could result in these refineries closing forever. This would in turn jeopardize tens of thousands of jobs throughout Pennsylvania, diminish our national fuel supply security, and lead to fuel shortages and massive price spikes.

These Northeast refineries are critical and indispensable suppliers of the transportation fuels that the growing manufacturing, distribution and logistics economies of southeastern Pennsylvania relies on. Monroe Energy (Monroe) and PBF Energy's (PBF) Delaware City Refinery are major suppliers of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. The ability for businesses in our region to source fuel from nearby regional points creates a competitive advantage and ensures that businesses and consumers have consistent access to reasonably priced fuel.

A key issue for Monroe and PBF stems from being independent refiners and lacking the capability to blend renewable fuels into the products they produce. Because independent refiners must still demonstrate compliance with the RFS, their only means of doing so is through the purchase of RINs, regardless of how much these credits cost in the market. If RIN costs do not subside substantially soon, there is the very real possibility that another million barrels per day of refining capacity will be put at risk and will not come back online. This is concerning at any time, but it's even more so now as we recover from the pandemic and the demand for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel continues to grow with the increase in the ecommerce economy.

Our members depend on having reliable access to fuel supplies in order to operate and grow their businesses, and they have this thanks to regional diversity of fuel supply. The current structure of the RFS in conjunction with rampant inflation, threatens to undo these geographical benefits, leading to a cascading effect of fuel shortages and even higher price increases.

For the above reasons and more, we respectfully urge you to take swift and meaningful action to reform the RFS. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gerlach", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Jim Gerlach  
President & CEO  
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance

Cc:  
Senator Bob Casey  
Senator Pat Toomey  
Representative Madeleine Dean  
Representative Chrissy Houlahan  
Representative Dan Meuser