

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

AFL-CIO
Philadelphia Building Trades Council
Delaware County & Chester County Central Labor Union
Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor



LOCAL UNION No. 654
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August 31, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of nearly 700 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 654 ("Local 654"), I am writing to express the urgent need for swift and meaningful action to reform the Renewable Fuel Standard ("RFS"). Local refineries are key partners for our union and regularly provide high-quality work opportunities for our members. Unless significant steps are taken soon, independent refineries in our region and more throughout the country could close their doors forever, creating an economic crisis that will devastate working families and compromise our national fuel security for years to come.

Local 654 has served southern Delaware and Chester Counties since 1939. Our members are true professionals in the electrical field and we believe that education is one of the keys to surviving in this highly-competitive, technology-driven industry. Another key is ensuring that a facility like Monroe remains a vibrant manufacturing facility where people can go to earn a good living. Many of my members depend on facilities like Monroe Energy for their livelihoods, and for decades, jobs at our local refineries have provided life-changing opportunities for tens of thousands of Local 654 members.

The domestic refining industry provides our members with hundreds of high-paying jobs, which in turn allows our union to invest in training, and reinvest in our communities through our charitable and volunteer efforts. When refineries invest in new capital or major maintenance projects, they typically employ an additional 1,000 or more skilled craft workers. But the pandemic has created tremendous challenges for our members, as projects across our region were either put on hold or cancelled altogether. Couple this with wildly volatile and often excessive RIN prices, and many of these facility investments are uncertain. The recent run up in RIN prices is once again putting domestically produced fuel supplies and our members' jobs at serious risk. In fact, high RIN prices have even contributed to at least one refinery bankruptcy in the recent past.

We may not be able to predict or control what happens to our economy as a result of the pandemic, but we can take steps to address the harm that our independent refiners have endured because of the broken RFS program. Our request comes at a time when immediate action is necessary to prevent RIN prices from becoming the straw that breaks the back of independent

American refiners in crisis. We urge you to work towards setting reasonable RFS standards moving forward to protect the union jobs and American families that President Biden has continuously fought for throughout his career. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Paul Mullen
Business Manager, IBEW 654

CC: Governor John Carney, Delaware
Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania
Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey
Senator Pat Toomey
Senator Bob Casey
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Tom Carper
Senator Chris Coons

Michael Regan, EPA Administrator
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, Sen. Advisor & Dir. of Pub. Engagement