



IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION #451
203 Old DuPont Road
Wilmington, DE 19804

September 24, 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 Ironworkers Local Union 451, 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.

Since 1934, Local 451 has served Southeastern Pennsylvania, providing the literal foundation and framework for countless building projects throughout our region, including bridges, power plants, steel mills, oil refineries, and more. We have built and continue to build some of the most important pieces of infrastructure that many of us use and rely on every day. Today our union has more than 200 well-trained members ready to work on tomorrow's biggest projects.

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,


Al Green

Business Manager
Ironworkers Local 451



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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