



## Laborers' International Union of North America Local 413

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Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor – CIO and  
Building Trades Council of Philadelphia

August 31, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

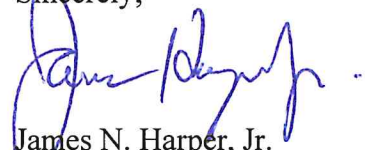
On behalf of the hundreds of members of the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 413 (LIUNA), I am writing to express the urgent need for swift and meaningful action to reform the Renewable Fuel Standard ("RFS"). Local refineries are key partners for our union and regularly provide high-quality 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.

Chartered on November 2, 1936, LIUNA and our membership believes in the union's commitments to **Unity, Education, Safety, and Community**. Local 413 is proud to say that through our efforts, members earn family-supporting pay, good benefits and the opportunity for advancement and better lives. Our union members are a skilled and experienced workforce trained to work safely in the construction and energy industries. Our members work in every area of the energy sector and they build crucial infrastructure - from roads, bridges, and transit systems to schools and skyscrapers.

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,



James N. Harper, Jr.  
Business Manager

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