

May 27, 2022

Mr. Ronald Klain, Chief of Staff  
Office of the President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Klain:

I am writing to you today to express my concerns with the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. While well-intended, the RFS is not operating in accordance with Congress' original intent and threatening the viability of our country's independence refineries, as well as harming the wallets of many consumers including my constituents.

As you are aware, independent refineries must comply with the RFS by purchasing compliance credits, known as Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs), which only cost a few cents when the RFS began. However, RINs have skyrocketed in price and remain highly volatile. In fact, RINs are trading right now for about \$1.60 per credit, which in total amounts to billions of dollars in compliance costs for refiners across the country. Many refiners individually spend more on these compliance credits than they do on all other operating costs, combined. This is unsustainable and could spell disaster for our country's fuel supply stability.

However, independent refiners aren't the only ones suffering. Consumers are suffering as well. In fact, studies have shown the **RFS is currently adding up to an estimated 30 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline fuel**. Citizens are in desperate need of relief from record-high fuel prices and true reforms to the RFS could help reduce their burden every time they put gas in their vehicles.

While long-term reforms to the RFS should be acted upon, the Administration can take action **today** to provide short-term relief by taking action on the proposed Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) which is at the White House for final review. While the 2020 and 2021 proposed RVO reflects biofuel volumes actually consumed in the market, the 2022 proposal is so high that it negates any benefits that might be realized in the RIN market from 2020 and 2021. In fact, the EPA's proposed 2022 RVO is 1.5 billion gallons *greater* than the federal government's own projected ethanol demand for the year.

**I strongly urge for the EPA to reduce the proposed 2022 RVO by at least 1.5 billion gallons** in its final ruling, which will better reflect the federal government's own projected ethanol demand for this year. Or in the alternative, the EPA could reduce the 2020 and 2021 volumes by the same amount in total.

I am truly concerned that without urgent and meaningful actions, our national and energy security will remain at risk, Pennsylvanian residents will continue to see record-high gas prices, we face the loss of many good-paying jobs, and loss of our fuel supply at an inopportune time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Villella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Villella

Resident - City of Warren, PA

CC: 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, Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement  
Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania  
Senator Pat Toomey  
Senator Bob Casey