

Pennsylvania Elected Officials, Labor & Business Leaders Sound Off: Save Our State's Refinery Jobs by Fixing the Broken RFS



Countless Pennsylvania elected officials, as well as organized labor and business leaders from across the Commonwealth, submitted public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the agency's recently proposed biofuel blending levels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). These leaders unanimously called on the EPA to revise its proposal in order to prevent our region's independent refineries from being forced to shut their doors for good due to the dysfunctional RFS.

Below are a few of these notable comments:

- **Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore Jake Corman (R-Pa.)**: "On behalf of the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians supported by the domestic energy industry, I respectfully ask that the EPA take meaningful steps in the short term to revise the proposed blending requirements to more accurately reflect market realities."
- **Pennsylvania Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward (R-Pa.), PA Senator Eugene Yaw (R-Pa.), and PA Senator Bob Mensch (R-Pa.)**: "The few remaining petroleum refineries in our region are critical to our national security, fuel supply stability, and our economy... Refineries in the northeast support thousands of direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs, many of which are members of the Philadelphia Building Trades. These jobs provide life-changing opportunities for those fortunate enough to have them."
- **Pennsylvania House Minority Leader Joanna E. McClinton (D-Pa.)**: "Refineries like Monroe Energy in Southeastern Pennsylvania provide family-sustaining job opportunities not only for the people they directly employ, but for thousands more who indirectly benefit from these facilities... There are ways in which EPA can stay true to the RFS program's intent and environmental goals without simultaneously jeopardizing the viability of independent refiners like Monroe."
- **Pennsylvania House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Pa.), PA Representative Martina White (R-Pa.), and PA Representative Joshua Kail (R-Pa.)**: "EPA must also act quickly to implement long-term permanent reforms which provide cost containment and stability for refiners, while allowing for blending of renewable fuels as originally envisioned by Congress."
- **Sauder's Eggs**: "The threat of closure facing America's independent refiners, particularly those in the northeast, ultimately represents a threat to the businesses and consumers that rely on these facilities as dependable suppliers of transportation and home heating fuels. If refiners shut down, fuel costs will certainly rise which would be yet another inescapable cost increase that consumers must simply absorb."
- **Asher's Chocolate Company**: "Like countless other companies, we depend on the products that our area's independent refiners produce in order to run our business..."
- **Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association**: "As a result of its flawed structure, the few remaining refineries in the Northeast are now spending more on RFS compliance credits called "RINs" than on salaries, benefits, and capital expenses combined... Without a change to the program's current structure, starting with the proposed blending requirements for 2020, 2021 and 2022, the goals of the program will not be met and we will actually become more dependent on foreign energy – the exact opposite of what its architects intended."



- **Pennsylvania Bus Association:** "Our members, and their thousands of employees, provide private coach services that deliver tremendous tourism and economic development benefits...Without reforms, runaway compliance costs for the RFS would damage the ability of thousands of our members to deliver affordable services to the many customers we serve across Pennsylvania and New Jersey."



- **Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry:** "Refiners like Monroe Energy, who have repeatedly expressed their strong desire to implement technologies to make the greener fuels of tomorrow, may never get the chance to do so because the RFS compliance costs are too high."



- **Pennsylvania State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police:** "To keep our communities healthy and safe, we depend on an affordable supply of fuel to power our vehicles so that we can respond to emergency situations as quickly as possible. That is why we strongly support our region's independent refiners. Without them, the entire Northeast region including hundreds of police departments would lose access to a reliable source of local fuel and become more dependent upon fuel from other countries overseas."



Included below are some of the letters and comments sent throughout the last several months urging President Biden, Congress, and EPA to reform the federal biofuel mandate:

Elected Officials:

- [Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf \(D-Pa.\)](#)
- [Senator Pat Toomey \(R-Pa.\)](#)
- [Senator Bob Casey \(D-Pa.\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Congressional Democrats](#)
- [Pennsylvania Congressional Republicans](#)
- [Pennsylvania State Senate Resolution](#)
- [Delaware County Democratic Delegation in the Pennsylvania House](#)
- [Delaware County Council](#)
- [Pennsylvania State House Resolution](#)

Labor Unions:

- [Laborers' International Union of North America Local 413](#)
- [International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 21](#)
- [Tristate Building Trades](#)
- [International Brotherhood of Boilermakers](#)
- [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 654](#)
- [Delaware County AFL-CIO Council](#)
- [Philadelphia Building Trades](#)
- [Steamfitters Local Union 420](#)
- [USW Local 10-234](#)

Business Leaders & Associations:

- [Mechanical & Service Contractors Association](#)
- [Greater Reading Chamber Alliance](#)
- [Pocono Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Pennsylvania Bus Association & Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association](#)
- [Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC](#)
- [Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [African American Chamber of Commerce of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware](#)
- [Pennsylvania Chemistry Industry Council](#)
- [New Castle County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [The Chamber of Commerce Of Greater Philadelphia](#)
- [The Port of Philadelphia](#)
- [Delaware County Chamber of Commerce](#)

