

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 18, 2021

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Radiation
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0322

As Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, we respectfully express our support for Governor Wolf's May 11, 2020, petition with the EPA, requesting it address severe economic harm in our State and region by issuing a waiver from Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume mandates under the Clean Air Act.

We further offer our support for separately filed petitions by the Governor of Louisiana, and the Governors of Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, seeking relief.

Clean Air Act section 211(o)(2) sets mandatory renewable fuel production requirements in the United States based on statutorily set levels and other data. International demand for refined products has drastically dropped during COVID-19 as people have less use for these fuels. This reduction in production has made demonstration of compliance with these mandates – through the purchase of credits (known as Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs)) to offset lower production – quite difficult as scarce RIN availability has unsustainably driven up RIN prices and the cost of RFS compliance. Additionally, the severe economic conditions that were the basis for the Governors' petitions have worsened in the following months.

As evidenced by the recent bankruptcy and closure of the PES refinery in Pennsylvania, current RFS volume obligations and associated RIN costs pose a serious threat to the economic vitality and viability of merchant refiners in our region and across the nation. There are workers, families, and communities that are counting on the economic success of these refineries.

If the Environmental Protection Agency decides not to grant the Governors' petitions, we urge the Agency to, at a minimum, address out of control RIN costs by putting in place urgently needed cost containment measures. There is an urgent need to control and significantly reduce the cost of RINs.

Sincerely,



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress