



August 31, 2021

INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF

**PAINTERS
& ALLIED
TRADES**

**DISTRICT
COUNCIL
21**

**JOSEPH T. ASHDALE
BUSINESS MANAGER
SECRETARY-TREASURER**



**(215) 677-7980
FAX (215) 677-3877**



AFFILIATED WITH

**PHILADELPHIA,
NORTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA,
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA,
AND DELAWARE
BUILDING TRADES
COUNCILS**

**PHILADELPHIA/
DELAWARE VALLEY,
DELAWARE AND
PENNSYLVANIA
AFL-CIO'S**

**EASTERN REGION
CONFERENCE OF I.U.P.A.T.**



HEADQUARTERS

**2980 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154**



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

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of over 4,500 members of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 21, 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.

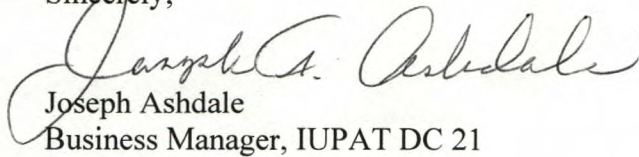
District Council 21 is recognized as one of the most active unions in the tri-state region, known for our members' talent and our commitment to serving our community. Our members are highly-trained professionals who have and continue to work on some of the most important projects in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. From the Pennsylvania Convention Center and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center to large industrial sites, our journey person graduates have helped revitalize our region. We are also proud of our involvement in our community, as our members regularly volunteer their time to help first responders, medical professionals, veterans' groups, and many more.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Ashdale". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Joseph Ashdale
Business Manager, IUPAT DC 21