

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, I write to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the nationwide Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume mandates to provide critical relief to our region's refineries.

It is well known that the RFS has imposed an undue economic burden on small and independent refineries, especially in the Greater Philadelphia Region. Under the program, refineries unequipped to blend biofuels into their gasoline must purchase credits, or renewable identification numbers (RINs), in an open market. With the volatility of RIN prices, refineries must spend billions to comply with the mandate, undermining the economic viability of many smaller refineries. For many years, the Monroe Energy Trainer Refinery's annual RFS compliance costs exceeded what the company paid for its entire facility. Now, climbing RIN prices and depressed fuel demand have made conditions more desperate for small independent refiners like Monroe.

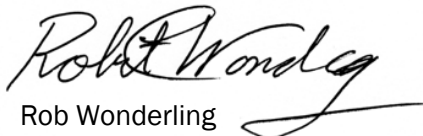
Our region has witnessed firsthand the economic hardships of refinery closures when in 2019, over 1,000 union workers lost their jobs due to the closing of the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery. And just last year, PBF Energy cut 250 jobs at its Paulsboro Refinery in Gloucester County, New Jersey. These layoffs have far-reaching effects on our local communities and economy. After a year of economic devastation, our region cannot afford to lose more family-sustaining jobs.

Refineries in our region and across the northeast remain critical to our nation's energy security. Recent incidents of bad weather and bad actors disrupting our nation's fuel supply further demonstrate the vital importance of the northeast refining industry. To preserve our remaining refineries will require swift action from the EPA.

The RFS mandate should be reformed, but at minimum, EPA must ease the burden on our region's refineries by using its waiver authority to reduce volume mandates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rob Wonderling  
President & CEO  
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia