



August 24, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
President@whitehouse.gov

Re: Small Refinery Hardship – Renewable Fuel Standard

Dear Mr. President:

In Iowa last week you indicated that you would speak with EPA about the pending petitions for small refinery hardship relief under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). In doing so, we urge you not to abandon your commitment to small refineries and to the employees and the rural communities that we serve. Instead, we ask that you resist efforts to harm the critical energy infrastructure you have fought so hard to protect during your Presidency under the false premise that doing so will help farmers.

Farmers and small refineries' interests under the RFS are aligned. While small refineries need to blend renewable fuel for octane and to secure RINs (credits) for compliance, they have limited opportunities to do so. Instead, they purchase exorbitantly priced RINs from major oil companies and RFS-exempt retailer/distributors that control downstream blending. The blender loophole, which RFA and other biofuels groups fought to preserve, allows downstream retailers/distributors to blend, or not, based on their best economic interest and without regard to biofuels mandates. If you strive to help farmers, you can easily do so by closing the blender loophole. Harming small refineries by denying hardship relief will not help farmers and will not fix the problems with the RFS. Meaningful reform is needed.

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, at least three small refineries have already permanently shut down while others face financial distress due to the historic downturn in demand and historically high RIN prices. Following your statements in Iowa, RIN prices ended the week sharply higher, adding \$240 million to small refineries' RIN costs week over week—costs we are unable to bear. We urge you to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with small refineries in Arkansas, Utah, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Montana, Wyoming, Texas, West Virginia, Mississippi, Indiana, Louisiana, California, Alabama, Washington, and Hawaii and protect our jobs and communities. Without your support, this country is sure to lose many more of its small refineries, which does no good at all.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Zolkos
Chief Financial Officer
American Refining Group, Inc.



James Matthew Vaughn, Esq.
Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel
Par Hawaii Refining, LLC
U.S. Oil & Refining Co.
Wyoming Refining Company



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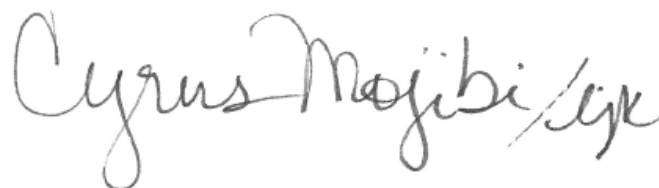
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Matt Smorch
President and Chief Executive Officer
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cc: Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Mandy Gunasekara, Esq.
Anne Austin, Esq.
LeAnn Johnson Koch, Esq.