

May 26, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to you on behalf of the thousands of businesses, large and small that the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ) represents due to a federal issue that is giving us cause for significant concern - the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Without action soon to fix the RFS, the last remaining refineries in the Northeast could close their doors forever, taking with them thousands of direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs at a time when the South Jersey regional economy and CCSNJ members are beginning to recover from the pandemic.

The CCSNJ is the region's largest and most influential business organization representing businesses in the seven most southern counties of New Jersey, as well as greater Philadelphia and northern Delaware. The organization has more than 1,100 member companies, approximately 85 percent of which are small businesses that employ less than 100 people and represents many businesses throughout the state of New Jersey, which provide goods and services to the regional refineries. From pipe manufacturers to mechanical services providers, local restaurants and more – the volume of indirect jobs needed to support these operations is enormous. Studies have shown that this job multiplier is even larger here in the South Jersey region than almost anywhere else in the country and many of these jobs are the family-sustaining, blue-collar jobs for which President Joe Biden advocates.

The recent shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline may have been a relatively short-lived event, but it demonstrated how quickly our country's economic activity could come to a standstill in the face of a widespread fuel shortage. Businesses depend on having reliable access to fuel in order to run their businesses. While this incident did not have significant impacts north of Washington D.C., this was in large part due to the fact that our region was well-supplied thanks to the local refineries. Imagine what the impacts would have been if the remaining refineries in the Northeast were not producing fuel for the regional business community at this critical time.

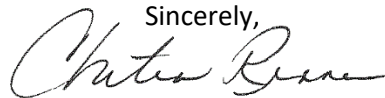
Within the past decade, the Northeast has lost 1.5 million barrels per day – or roughly 70 percent – of its refining capacity, making South Jersey more dependent than it should be on imported fuel from foreign countries. The ability to have reliable fuel production capabilities in different regions of the United States is a matter of national and energy security and as we transition to a greener fuel economy, our



region's refineries are poised to take a leading role. The significant capital investments that they will need to make will be a major boon for businesses in New Jersey.

The RFS is severely broken, and without reform, the ripple effects threaten the livelihoods of countless Americans, but especially those in the South Jersey region. A reasonable solution can be achieved that both promotes the continued use of biofuels in this country while also ensuring that America's independent refiners can continue to stay in business without the heavy and unnecessary burden forced upon them by the broken RFS program.

The refineries in the South Jersey region are in a crisis and the time for action is running out. The CCSNJ respectfully urges you take swift action and achieve meaningful reform on the RFS. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


CC: Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey
Ron Klain, White House Chief of Staff
Brian Deese, Director, National Economic Council
Marty Walsh, Secretary of Labor
Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, EPA
Seth Harris, Senior Advisor Labor Policy
Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor and Director of Public Engagement
Congressional Delegation of New Jersey



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