



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarren
General President

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the more than half a million skilled professionals that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America represents, I am writing today because there is a pressing need for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to partially waive the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume mandate. This action is urgently needed to reduce the skyrocketing cost of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) and preserve American union jobs.

As you know, the domestic merchant refining industry provides union construction workers with thousands of steady high-paying jobs. When refineries invest in new capital or major maintenance projects, they typically employ thousands of additional skilled craft workers. However, wildly volatile and excessive RIN prices have curtailed many of these multimillion-dollar projects.

The current run up in RIN prices is continuing to put domestically produced fuel supplies at serious risk, as well as the hundreds of thousands of jobs and families they support. While we support the aims of the Renewable Fuel Standard, it is clear that the system is not working as intended and urgent action is needed to save these local jobs. It is important to note that runaway RIN prices did nothing to increase the percentage of biofuels blended into the nation's fuel supply, which the U.S. Energy Information Administration notes remained relatively unchanged in 2020 from 2019 levels. This is because RIN prices now reflect an unregulated secondary market, rather than a low-cost tool to ensure compliance with the RFS.

If RIN costs do not subside substantially soon, there is the very real possibility that another million barrels per day of refining capacity will be permanently closed. This is concerning at any time, but it's even more so now as we continue to claw our way back from the depths of the pandemic. Our country's demand for gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel continues to grow, and further plant closures would be a blow to our recovering economy and job market.

Last year, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf joined a bipartisan group of governors, city mayors and the National Wildlife Federation in petitioning the Agency to waive the RFS requirements down to levels reflecting the amount of ethanol that can be blended into the fuel supply given engine and infrastructure limitations. I write today urging immediate action to prevent RIN prices from becoming the straw that breaks the back of independent American refiners in crisis. We urge you to grant the governors' immediate waiver requests and set reasonable RFS standards moving forward to protect the union jobs and American families that you have continuously fought for throughout your career.

If you have any questions, please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Justin Weidner, at jweidner@carpenters.org. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. McCarron