



SCOTUS to Review Ethanol RFS Small Refinery Exemptions

January 8, 2021—The Supreme Court will review a ruling limiting the ability of small refineries to obtain exemptions from federal ethanol RFS biofuel-blending quotas. The justices without comment agreed to hear an appeal by units of HollyFrontier Corp. and Wynnewood Refining Co., which said the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling wrongly deprives small refineries of economic relief that was specifically authorized by Congress. Under law, small refineries facing an “economic hardship” from the mandates can receive exemptions.

The case, *HollyFrontier Cheyenne et al v Renewable Fuels Association et al.* (20-472), could be argued before Supreme Court in April.

You can attribute the following comment to the Fueling American Jobs Coalition:

The decision to take the case comes at an urgent time for independent refiners and blue collar jobs all over the country. Already battered by suppressed fuel demand due to COVID, they currently face RIN prices not seen in 3 years and have to endure some 770 million gallons of unlawful obligation from Small Refinery Exemptions that were never issued.

Prompted by the Court’s focus on the program, we hope the incoming Administration will understand that any economic recovery depends on affordable and reliable fuel. But high RINs prices threaten more plant closures and job losses while doing nothing to benefit biofuel producers or farmers.

The Fueling American Jobs Coalition is a coalition of union workers, mom & pop gas station owners, small retailers, and independent American oil refiners fighting for a commonsense fix to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) flawed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The need for significant reform has only grown over the past few years as the cost of purchasing Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) to comply with the RFS has grown increasingly volatile, threatening some refiners’ survival. For additional information, visit: www.fuelingusjobs.com.