



**For Immediate Release**

**March 15, 2021**

### **FAJC to President Biden: Remember COVID's Impact on Pennsylvania Refiners**

**Washington, DC**— *The Fueling U.S. Jobs Coalition released the following statement on President Biden's visit to Delaware County, PA, where the region's struggling refineries have been severely impacted by the COVID-related economic slowdown and sharp drop in fuel demand:*

"President Biden's visit to the state of his birth offers a timely reminder of the broad damage that the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted on the American economy. The Philadelphia-region refining sector starkly illustrates that devastating impact. But skyrocketing Renewable Fuel Standard compliance costs (RINs)—something wholly within the control of the federal government—make this bad situation much worse.

Refineries are a bedrock of U.S. energy security. Yet Pennsylvania today has only one remaining large-scale refinery, Monroe Energy's Trainer facility, which is currently reeling from low product demand and sky-high compliance costs related to the RFS. Philadelphia Energy Solutions, which once employed over 1000 workers, closed permanently in 2019. Just across the river, PBF's Paulsboro, NJ facility slashed 250 jobs in November 2020, representing 63 percent of the refinery's workforce.

Today's high RINs costs make it even harder for refineries to overcome this challenging environment. Since January 2020, those compliance costs have increased over 600%, creating an untenable financial strain during a time of sustained economic upheaval across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently considering requests from a bipartisan group of U.S. Governors—including Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf—to waive RFS obligations for refiners beset by COVID-driven financial stress. The refinery workers include some of the President's most loyal supporters—hard-working union employees that the President pledged to protect and support.

Now is the time to honor the requests of Governors for critically needed waiver relief from RFS obligations. President Biden must make good on his commitments and ensure that fuel manufacturers not only survive, but rebuild from the pandemic stronger than ever."

*For more information on the Governors' waiver request, visit [fuelingusjobs.com/submitted-letters](https://fuelingusjobs.com/submitted-letters).*

**Excerpts of February 2021 letters to EPA in support of waiver requests:**

**[Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf](#)**: "Since my previous petitions were filed, conditions have continued

to deteriorate. The number of East Coast facilities that have closed has increased to eight and Pennsylvania now has only one remaining large refinery, Monroe Energy's Trainer facility. In an SEC filing last week, Monroe Energy's parent company reported an operating loss at the refinery of \$216 million in 2020 with \$172 million of the loss attributable to RINs expenses. Notably, these costs imposed by the RFS had increased by over a hundred million dollars from 2019, when Monroe's RINs compliance cost was \$58 million."

**Delaware County AFL-CIO Council:** "With only three large refineries remaining on the East Coast, we must take proactive steps to protect these facilities, and the family supporting union jobs they provide, as they are major economic drivers in the northeast. The ongoing pandemic has further magnified this issue, and unless something is done soon, this unsustainable trajectory will lead to even more refinery closures."

**Steamfitters Local Union 420 (Philadelphia):** "Over the years, jobs at our local refineries have provided life-changing opportunities for tens of thousands of steamfitters. Refinery jobs have allowed our local union to invest in training, and to reinvest in our communities through youth programs, scholarships and so much more. The pandemic has created tremendous challenges for our members as jobs across our tristate region were either put on hold or cancelled altogether. Without a change, our jobs are at risk, our national security is threatened, and the goals of the [RFS] will not be met."

**USW Local 10-234 (Linwood, PA):** "Our members' jobs, their families and our region rely on the economic vitality of the refinery. The severe economic harm that was the basis for the Governor's petition is even more severe today. The pandemic has exacerbated the Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) problem, causing prices to skyrocket even more, creating an untenable economic environment for refiners like Monroe. Things are getting worse, not better."

**Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council:** "We cannot stress enough how crucial these facilities are to the region and the nation. If action is not taken soon on Governor Tom Wolf's petition and meaningful reforms to the RFS are not achieved, we fear that the remaining refineries in our region will be gone forever. The economic impact of such an outcome is unthinkable"

**Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry:** "The RFS program sorely needs reform, if not outright repeal; however, such remedies are a legislative matter for Congress to take up. In the meantime, the administration should use the tools at its disposal to provide relief. I urge you to grant the petition or, at a minimum, put in place cost containment measures to control and significantly reduce the cost of RINs."

**Pennsylvania Members of Congress:** "As evidenced by the recent bankruptcy and closure of the PES refinery in Pennsylvania, current RFS volume obligations and associated RIN costs pose a serious threat to the economic vitality and viability of merchant refiners in our region and across the nation. There are workers, families, and communities that are counting on the economic success of these refineries."

*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 EPA's flawed 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](http://www.fuelingusjobs.com).*