



EPA OPENS DOCKET ON GOVERNORS RFS WAIVER REQUESTS IN EFFORT TO ADDRESS DRAMATIC DROP IN U.S. FUEL DEMAND

STATEMENT BY THE FUELING AMERICAN JOBS COALITION

January 15, 2021 – “Amid unrelenting demand destruction for motor fuels due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today took long-awaited action to move forward on bipartisan [requests](#) from six U.S. governors to waive applicable obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

Today’s move by EPA reflects the fact that action now is timelier than ever because refineries continue to suffer unprecedented financial losses and facility shut-downs, with limited prospects for immediate recovery. The politically and regionally diverse governors calling for waivers from EPA are keenly aware of the hit that refineries and their surrounding communities are taking from adherence to this flawed government mandate. EPA’s move finally provides an appropriate and overdue ray of hope to these major state employers.

Requests have been filed by **Louisiana** Gov. John Bel Edwards, **Oklahoma** Gov. Kevin Stitt, **Pennsylvania** [Gov. Tom Wolf](#), **Texas** Gov. Greg Abbott, **Utah** Gov. Gary Herbert and **Wyoming** Gov. Mark Gordon. Leading **environmental groups** including the [National Wildlife Federation](#)—concerned about damage to wildlife habitats, water and air quality stemming from the RFS—have also notified EPA they support the petitions and other [actions](#) to lower the obligation.

On the campaign trail, President-elect Biden long supported initiatives to protect and enhance industrial employment while protecting the environment. These waivers do just that. Environmentalists, organized labor and industry hope the next administration takes rapid action on this long overdue effort before irreversible damage is done to the nation’s energy infrastructure. The jobs of thousands of union workers in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio and many other states across the country depend on it.”

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.