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FAJC Calls on Congress to Prevent Higher Gas Prices and Protect Independent Refiners

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the Congressional Rural Domestic Energy Council convenes and develops proposed legislation authorizing national, year-round E15 sales, the Fueling American Jobs Coalition (FAJC) released the following statement encouraging Congress to advance solutions that would protect mid-size refiners from overly burdensome Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) compliance costs and prevent higher consumer fuel costs.

“We are calling for Congress to ensure any proposal authorizing year-round E15 sales is paired with provisions to contain the costs of the ethanol mandate. Current draft proposals might work for the world's largest oil companies, many of whom have offshored refining capacity, but these so-called 'compromises' will only force mid-size, independent American refiners out of business.

“Independent refiners are already drowning under the crushing costs of a broken Renewable Fuel Standard. Year-round E15 without meaningful RFS reforms would put America’s remaining independent refineries at risk, threatening thousands of family-sustaining jobs, driving up higher gas prices, and weakening domestic refining capacity.

“Independent refiners and refinery workers stand ready to support year-round E15 legislation that contains RIN costs instead of pushing unachievable ethanol mandates even higher. We cannot support any proposals that will be used to drive up the ethanol mandate, a goal the ethanol lobby has openly stated, and a significant threat to mid-size refiners. We stand ready to engage with the Rural Energy Council to pursue a responsible path forward that does not use extreme government mandates to put mid-size and small refiners out of business.”

Background

President Trump underscored the importance of a strong domestic refining sector in his Day One executive order, and called for an assessment of refining infrastructure vulnerabilities, particularly within the U.S. Northeast. The RFS disproportionately burdens independent refineries, including several throughout the Northeast, which lack the infrastructure to blend ethanol due to its chemical constraints and must instead buy compliance credits called Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs).

In 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two unprecedented RFS rules that would significantly increase compliance obligations on refiners; levels many independent operators warn are unattainable. Consumer protection groups caution that these proposals could strain refinery operations, accelerate closures, and drive-up fuel prices for consumers nationwide.

At the same time, the world's largest oil companies and Washington's ethanol lobby continue pressing the EPA to expand ethanol mandates through year-round E15 sales and further changes to the Small Refinery Exemption program, policies that disproportionately harm mid-sized and independent refiners while consolidating market power among the largest players. Rather than responding to consumer demand, E15 has increasingly been used to justify higher blending mandates, even in [markets where uptake remains limited](#).

These unrealistic standards imposed upon refiners have resulted in independent refinery closures, diminished refining capacity, and thousands of layoffs across the refining industry, all of which result in higher gas prices forced onto consumers.

About the Fueling American Jobs Coalition (FAJC)

The Fueling American Jobs Coalition is a coalition of union workers and independent American oil refiners fighting for a commonsense fix to the EPA's flawed Renewable Fuel Standard. 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.fuelinqsjobs.com.