



### STATEMENT BY THE FUELING AMERICAN JOBS COALITION

**September 14, 2020** – *The Fueling American Jobs Coalition released the following statement in response to EPA’s RFS announcement today:*

Earlier today, EPA announced its intention to deny small refiner exemptions (SREs) despite still undertaking notice and comment review of recent court actions. In light of clear promises the President has made to protect refineries and their workers from adverse regulatory impacts, the Administration in recent days has discussed cash payments to the select few refiners that would have qualified for SREs. That proposal misses the mark, and EPA announcement today misses an opportunity to help the refinery workers that benefited from the discipline in credit (or RINs) prices attributable to the SRE program. Today’s announcement and contemplated cash-payment plans are bad for the refining industry, its workers, and consumers—all of whom the President has promised to protect.

EPA has turned a blind eye to merchant refineries and their workers in key battleground states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas—where the effects of recent spikes in RINs prices have inflicted the most damage. Merchant refiners currently face some of the highest expenditures for RINs in a decade; at the close of business on Friday, September 11, RINs prices averaged 227% higher than their price on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Seven refineries have permanently closed in the past year alone, leaving tens of thousands of lost jobs with consequent impacts on communities, families and small businesses.

RFS mismanagement and cash payments are certainly no solution to the refining industry’s current struggles. Instead, EPA should advance mechanisms that control RINs prices under existing legal authority—and at no cost to the Federal Treasury. EPA should also resist efforts to reallocate RINs obligations, particularly those predicated on future SREs that now appear never to be granted. The President promised to take care of refinery workers on numerous occasions. It is now time to honor those promises.

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*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](http://www.fuelingusjobs.com).*