



For Immediate Release

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What They Are Saying: The Renewable Fuel Standard is Helping to Drive Up Gas Prices

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After millions of Americans travelled on Thanksgiving for the first time since the pandemic began amid historically high gas prices, the Fueling American Jobs Coalition released a statement encouraging the Biden administration to provide much-needed consumer relief at the pump by making commonsense fixes to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s flawed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

“As inflation and increasing consumer costs stretch every dollar, Americans are also paying more for gasoline and refined fuel products than they have in years due in part to the broken Renewable Fuel Standard. The RFS and its out-of-control RINs compliance credit market are imposing a hidden tax on independent refineries and consumer alike, driving up gas prices while pushing independent refiners to the brink of closure. To help alleviate consumer pain at the pump and save thousands of union jobs, President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan must act now and fix the RFS.”

In recent weeks, multiple news publications have highlighted the Renewable Fuel Standard's impact on gas prices, intensifying [calls](#) for the Biden administration to take immediate action on reforming the federal biofuel mandate.

- ***The Wall Street Journal: Editorial:*** [Biden's Gas-Price Diversion](#)

“Our sources say the ethanol mandate is adding roughly 14 cents per gallon to the cost of producing gasoline and diesel in the U.S. The difference between the cost of wholesale gasoline and ethanol adds another 10 cents. One easy way to reduce gasoline prices is to waive the ethanol mandate.”

- ***The New Jersey Record: Op-Ed:*** [Biden could lower gas prices for NJ drivers by 30 cents a gallon. Here's how](#)

“This existential RIN problem is self-inflicted and putting thousands of high-quality union jobs at risk. It's also contributing to higher consumer gas prices. It's been estimated that compliance costs of the Renewable Fuel Standard add an extra 30 cents per gallon at the pump — almost more than twice the 17-cent-per-gallon federal gas tax.”

- ***Fox Business:*** [Refiners Plea for Regulation Relief](#)

“It's devastating to not only our company, but to anyone that fills up the gas tank. The RFS program is broken, has been broken, and now we're reaching a point where it's just lunacy. ”

- ***New York Magazine:*** [What Biden should and shouldn't do to combat inflation](#)

“The Biden administration has the power to reduce this year's RFS quota. The climate implications of such a move would be negligible, and it would likely knock a few cents off U.S. households' fuel and grocery bills. So it'd be worth doing.”

- ***The Wall Street Journal:*** [Another Way Biden Pushes Gasoline Prices Up](#)

“The longer this process takes, the less time refineries and markets will have to respond, with each week of delay pushing up prices at the pump. If the administration doesn’t act, Congress needs to step in and revise the RFS in a manner that simplifies the program, particularly the volume requirement versus the small-refinery waiver system. Further delays will jeopardize small refineries, American workers and the public.”

- ***Dow Jones:*** [Biden's Other Tool for Gas Prices is the Renewable Fuel Policy](#)

“The problem with the RFS program is that the costs for those credits, which are known as RINs and are traded in the free market, have risen by as much as 2,000% in the past year-and-a-half. That has created huge expenses for many independent refiners whose businesses are not involved in the blending process and thus are forced to buy RINs. Those costs then often get passed on to consumers in the way of higher fuel prices.”

- ***Bloomberg:*** [Biden Could Revisit Renewable Fuel Mandate to Give Drivers Relief at Pumps](#)

“The so-called Renewable Fuel Standard was authorized in 2005 as part of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on imported oil. It requires oil refiners and fuel importers to buy and blend renewable fuels such as ethanol into the U.S. fuel supply. If they don’t, they can still meet their quotas by buying tradeable credits known as Renewable Identification Numbers. The cost of those credits have swung wildly this year amid a perceived shortage, adding to a surge in gasoline prices while squeezing small fuel suppliers.”

- ***S&P Global:*** [US margins dip pre-Thanksgiving as US releases SPR barrels to cut gasoline prices](#)

“On the SPR, instead of focusing on measure that would have limited, if any, impact, as evidenced by the fact crude is trading up today, the Administration could lower consumer fuel costs fairly quickly by releasing a lower renewable fuel standard (RFS). The cost for RFS compliance credits – called RINs – has added between 15 to 30 cents per gallon to the cost of manufacturing fuel this year,” said Brendan Williams, a spokesperson for refiner PBF Energy.”