FOR RELEASE: August 28, 2026
CONTACT: press@fuelingusjobs.com

Independent Refiners Push Back Against Agricultural Groups' Calls for Small Refinery Exemption Reallocation

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Fueling American Jobs Coalition, representing a coalition of union workers and independent American oil refiners, issued the following statement in response to reports that agricultural and biofuel groups are urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reallocate 100% of the renewable fuel obligations associated with Small Refinery Exemptions (SREs). EPA has already moved to reallocate the vast majority of anticipated exempted volumes to other refiners.

"The EPA's final RVO rule made clear that the agency anticipated granting 2.8 billion RINs worth of Small Refinery Exemptions associated with the 2023-2025 compliance years. The EPA has already moved to reallocate the vast majority of those exempted volumes to other refiners. Yet biofuel and agricultural groups are now demanding for 100% of exempted volumes be reallocated."

"The criticism of Small Refinery Exemptions misses the larger issue. Shifting obligations onto other refiners does not make the costs disappear. Those added compliance burdens have helped drive RIN prices sharply higher, adding more than 30 cents per gallon to fuel costs, and increasing volatility in the RIN market."

"The existential problem is that EPA is layering reallocated obligations on top of mandates that already risk exceeding the volumes the domestic biofuel industry can realistically produce. Multiple analysts have warned the combination of higher mandates and reallocated, exempted volumes could leave the market short of RIN compliance credits to meet EPA's requirements, which will have to be filled by imports. Additionally, because refiners need RIN credits to meet federal blending requirements, a shortage of those credits could force refiners to produce less fuel, tightening supplies and adding additional pressure to increase fuel prices due to the resulting supply/demand imbalance."

"America's farmers are already feeling the impact of elevated diesel prices, which have been compounded by higher RFS compliance costs. Agricultural groups understandably want policies that strengthen demand for American crops, but policymakers cannot pursue that objective while ignoring the costs those policies impose on farmers, who rely on fuel to plant, harvest, and transport their crops. If unrealistic mandates and credit shortages further constrain fuel supplies, the people who depend on reliable fuel will bear the consequences. Policymakers should focus on protecting fuel affordability and supply reliability, not doubling down on policies that increase costs and threaten both energy and agricultural security."

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.fuelingusjobs.com.

# # #