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## **FAJC: Lower the Ethanol Mandate to Mitigate Gasoline Price Spikes**

*As lawmakers explore policies to shield U.S. consumers from fuel price volatility, independent refiners ask leaders to align current and future Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) mandates with real-world consumption*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the Trump administration considers executive actions to protect U.S. consumers from sudden gasoline price increases, the Fueling American Jobs Coalition, a coalition of union workers and independent American oil refiners, encouraged the administration to adjust the ethanol mandate to reflect actual ethanol consumption, a step that would lower the cost of refining crude oil into gasoline.

**"Research has confirmed that the Renewable Fuel Standard is adding 20-30 cents per gallon to prices at the pump. For years, we have urged lawmakers to align the ethanol mandate with actual ethanol consumption to lower those costs.**

**"As the Trump administration considers policies to offset crude oil prices and protect consumers from gas price volatility, rightsizing the ethanol mandate is an immediate step the administration can take right now. Today's artificial mandate is physically impossible to meet, driving up the scarcity and cost of RINs that are passed on to consumers. Aligned the mandate with real-world consumption would cut fuel production costs by more than \$9 per barrel, lowering consumer fuel costs without reducing biofuel consumption.**

**"The administration should also align EPA's proposed ethanol mandates for 2026 and 2027 with the government's projected consumption for those years and prevent the reallocation of Small Refinery Exemption volumes. Those commonsense reforms would stabilize unpredictable RIN prices and lower the costs of refining fuel — again, without lowering biofuel consumption.**

**"America's independent refiners stand ready to meet this moment as we confront real strains on our nation's refining capacity, resulting from unachievable ethanol mandates. High RFS compliance costs have contributed to the closure of at least four domestic oil refineries in recent years, reducing critical refining capacity, driving up gas prices, and undermining U.S. energy security. Aligning the ethanol mandate with real-world consumption is a practical step toward correcting course and restoring stability."**

### Background

Media reports indicate the Trump Administration is assessing several policy options to prevent consumer fuel price volatility as global oil prices surge and the summer driving season approaches. As the White House [evaluates options](#) to stabilize gasoline prices,

unattainable ethanol mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) continue to contribute to higher gas prices nationwide.

Earlier this year, the EPA proposed a 15-billion-gallon ethanol mandate for the 2026–2027 Renewable Volume Obligations under the RFS. The mandate is [inconsistent](#) with real-world fuel demand and existing infrastructure capacity, increasing costs for refiners and for [consumers at the pump](#).

On day one in office, President Trump declared a [National Energy Emergency](#), warning that shortsighted energy policies had left the United States with an inadequate fuel supply, weakened infrastructure, and rising energy prices that “devastate Americans.” The declaration singled out the Northeast, home to several of the nation’s remaining independent refineries — as particularly vulnerable.

Meanwhile, Renewable Identification Number (RIN) prices have surged roughly 75 percent since January 2025, placing significant financial strain on small and independent refiners. Because refiners must purchase RINs to comply with the RFS, these rising costs are passed through the supply chain, contributing to higher gasoline prices for American 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.fuelingusjobs.com](http://www.fuelingusjobs.com).