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FAJC Renews Call for Lawmakers to Protect Mid-Sized, Independent Refiners as "Big Oil" and Ethanol Lobby Team Up to Push for Higher Mandates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Fueling American Job Coalition (FAJC) released the following statement after America's largest biofuel producers [renewed their push](#) to expand federal ethanol mandates, including through national year-round E15 sales and changes to the Small Refinery Exemption (SRE) program under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS):

"The world's largest oil companies and the ethanol lobby have constantly stated their intention to use year-round E15 as a gateway to push for higher mandates. Such a policy would simply put more American refining capacity at risk, making us more reliant on foreign fuel at a time of great geopolitical uncertainty. America cannot maintain energy security, affordability, or fuel reliability without independent refiners. These refiners keep gasoline prices down and ensure access to secure, reliable fuel supplies.

"The U.S. Northeast is especially at risk. Excessively high RFS compliance costs already exceed what many refiners can absorb, and recent proposals from the Environmental Protection Agency could spell disaster for their long-term survival.

"Every increase in biofuel mandates enriches the world's largest oil companies — which control the tradeable credits independent refiners need to show compliance with the RFS — at the expense of America's independent refiners. Consumers ultimately pay the price at the pump — up to 30 cents more per gallon— and face extreme price volatility if just one more independent refinery is forced to close.

"Without meaningful action to rein in RFS compliance costs, any increase in ethanol mandates, including those advanced under the guise of year-round E15 sales, threatens the viability of mid-sized, independent refiners. We continue to urge Congress to act now to protect refiners, consumers, and U.S. energy security from further damage."

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).

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two unprecedented Renewable Fuel Standard 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.

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.fuelingusjobs.com.