Labor Unions Sound Off Loud & Clear:

Save Our Member's Refinery Jobs by Fixing the Broken RFS



Organized labor leaders represent hundreds of thousands of Union members from coast to coast who work in America's independent refineries to support their families by making the products that help make modern life possible. Many of these Union leaders have submitted public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging the Agency to lower its recently proposed biofuel blending levels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). In their comments, these labor leaders consistently and unanimously called on the EPA to make their proposal more realistic to prevent independent refineries from being forced to shut their doors forever, which would make the United States even more reliant on imported fuels.

Notable comments submitted by organized labor to EPA include:

- North America's Building Trades Union: "While we support the Administration's efforts to accelerate the country's transition to more renewable fuels, the proposed RVO target for 2022 would have clear and direct negative impacts on the industry and on the livelihood of our members."
- United Association (Pipefitters): "There is simply no logical reason to believe that increasing the regulatory burden placed on refineries will incentivize American consumers to demand more highly concentrated ethanol blends or retail stations to invest in the infrastructure necessary to distribute such blends. Rather than creating those incentives, the EPA's proposed 2022 RVO will instead result in severe economic hardship for refinery workers and negative economic impacts for the American public at large."
- <u>United Steelworkers:</u> "This program needs reform that relies on available data, considers environmental impact, eliminates unpredictability in the RINs market, and ensures that working people's livelihoods aren't the unintended victims... We ask the Agency to be mindful that its decision- making on RVOs has impacts on RINs prices, regardless of the fact that the rule does not directly relate to the RINs market."
- Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation: "As currently written, we believe the proposed EPA rule threatens Ohio Building Tradespeople's jobs in Ohio's refining sector at a time when these jobs are already in jeopardy."
- Delaware Building & Construction Trades, Philadelphia Building & Construction Trades Council, and United Camden & Vicinity Building & Construction Trades Council: "Without swift and meaningful action on this issue, starting with changes to the proposed RVO... thousands of union jobs and American families will suffer significant financial harm. In addition, energy prices will continue to rise, and our national and energy security will be at even greater risk."











These public comment submissions come after years of pleas from organized labor leaders who have repeatedly and publicly urged the EPA to fix the RFS, by curbing the out-of-control costs of Renewable Identification Number (RIN)s.

Included below are past letters on behalf of some of the nation's most prominent organized labor leaders, urging President Biden, Congress, and EPA to reform the federal biofuel mandate:

- United Steelworkers
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
- North America's Building Trades Unions
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- Philadelphia, Delaware, and New Jersey Building Trades
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 654
- <u>Laborers' International Union of North America Local 413</u>
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District

 Council 21
- Mechanical & Service Contractors Association
- Delaware County AFL-CIO Council
- Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council
- Steamfitters Local Union 420
- United Steelworkers Local 10-234
- Northwest Ohio Building Trades
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Iron Workers Local Union 451
- Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction
 Trades Council