

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 6, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to ask your assistance in supporting thousands of well-paying energy sector jobs in Philadelphia and the surroundings area. Specifically, we are concerned that the high cost of compliance with the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) through the submission of Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits is undermining the continued viability of the oil refining sector in the Northeast. We ask that your Administration address RINs in an effort to reduce compliance costs and support thousands of well-paying jobs in Pennsylvania's energy sector.

As you are aware, oil refineries are required to submit RINs to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) each year to demonstrate compliance with the RFS. However, merchant refiners have limited blending capacity and cannot generate enough RINs to meet their annual RFS obligations. Therefore, these refiners must purchase RINs on the secondary market, where prices have increased significantly and remain unpredictable. In recent years, RIN prices have skyrocketed, increasing compliance costs for northeast merchant refineries and putting thousands of energy jobs at risk.

In the Philadelphia region, Monroe Energy employs nearly 500 workers and Philadelphia Energy Solutions employs over 1,200, in addition to supporting thousands of indirect jobs in the energy, manufacturing, and transportation industries. According to both refineries, the cost of purchasing sufficient RINs to comply with the RFS exceeds their total payroll costs, which forces the facilities to forgo plans to expand production and hire additional workers. We are concerned that current compliance costs and the volatile RIN market may lead to the closure of one or more of these merchant refineries, which would have a devastating impact on the regional economy.

The Philadelphia-area refineries supply a significant amount of gasoline and diesel to motorists in the northeastern United States, and any loss of production due to the RFS could increase fuel prices and disrupt the region's gasoline supply. As demonstrated after Hurricane Harvey, the closure of several Gulf Coast refineries increased fuel costs across the country, and this scenario could have been more severe if either of the Philadelphia-area refineries were not operational. In an effort to prevent future price spikes and fuel disruptions, regulatory relief and RFS reform are needed so that the merchant refineries in Philadelphia can continue supplying affordable fuels and supporting well-paying jobs.

The issues surrounding the RFS are complex, but the need to save well-paying, family-sustaining jobs is not. We urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Philadelphia-area refineries and the jobs they support are not jeopardized or eliminated by current federal energy policy. We stand ready to assist as your Administration strives to reduce compliance costs and support job creation, energy production, and national security.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



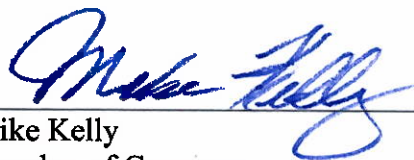
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



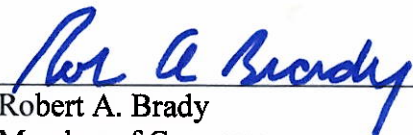
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



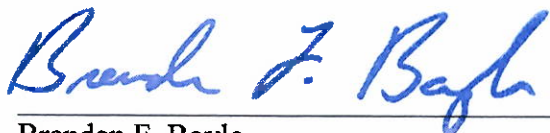
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



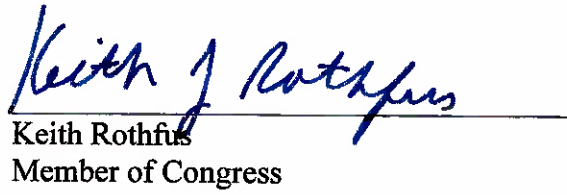
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
Member of Congress