

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

Hard working Americans whose jobs depend on a strong independent refining industry deserve the opportunity for you to hear directly from their representatives on the potential impact of policies that could kill their jobs and destroy a critical component of our nation's economy. If your administration does not make adjustments or reforms on matters related to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), it will result in a loss of jobs around the country, particularly in our states. For example, a recent study found that if U.S. independent refiners go out of business, an estimated 75,000 to 150,000 American jobs are potentially at risk.

Indeed, this week the Wall Street Journal editorial board highlighted the tragic consequences of the EPA's latest actions in this area for Pennsylvanian union workers, many of whom enthusiastically support you. Philadelphia Energy Solutions faces ever increasing RIN prices and last year was forced to lay off 70 workers. Ryan O'Callaghan, president of United Steelworkers Local 10-1, who reportedly has 692 members remaining at Philadelphia Energy Solutions, voiced his fears that they are being left behind.

Mr. O'Callaghan's fears are shared by Americans all across the country, who depend on a strong refining industry for their livelihoods, and who supported Republicans this past year so that they would have a Congress and a President who would stand up for them. But, at the same time, Mr. O'Callaghan expressed hope that you will instead decide to pursue policies that help workers like those at Philadelphia Energy Solutions. We write to you in that same spirit of hope.

Accordingly, we request that within the next three weeks you convene a meeting regarding the RFS and pro-jobs policies with us, our Senate colleagues who previously lobbied you on behalf of the ethanol industry, and relevant members of your administration, to discuss a pathway forward toward a mutually agreeable solution that will also save refining jobs and help unleash an American energy renaissance.

Thank you for continued service to our great nation.

Sincerely,

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Prof. [unclear]

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John Fleck

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