Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515  

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

As Members of the Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming delegations to Congress, we are writing you today to respectfully encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to quickly review requests made by our states to reduce the renewable volume obligation (RVO) under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The current, suppressed worldwide demand for motor fuels has placed the refining sector in a precarious economic situation that is only magnified by these federal regulations.

We understand as of April 15, the Governors from our states have pending requests for waivers before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They argue that continued implementation of the RFS under the current RVO with an increasingly significant rise in the cost of compliance credits known as RINs could push the sector – and the nation as a whole – into severe economic stress.

Fortunately, Section 211(o)(7) of the Clean Air Act, allows for the EPA to respond by granting a waiver request if the RFS requirements would severely harm the economy or environment of a State, a region, or the United States. Based on this, we urge the EPA to act swiftly in reviewing these requests, under the Volume Requirement Waiver and if determined rightfully so, grant these waivers expediently.

This is not time for the agency to sit idly by as refineries face economic duress that can cost the nation hundreds of thousands of jobs and undermine the very energy security that the RFS was established to protect.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you and the Trump Administration on regulatory reform and future efforts to protect American jobs and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Chip Roy  
Member of Congress  

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress
John Curtis  
Member of Congress  

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress  

Van Taylor  
Member of Congress  

Ron Wright  
Member of Congress  

Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress  

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress  

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress  

Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress  

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress  

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress  

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress  

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress
Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress