

JOHN KENNEDY  
LOUISIANA

SUITE SR-416  
RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4623

# United States Senate

April 17, 2020

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN OF  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

I write to you today to express my support for the request of a waiver of the renewable volume obligation (RVO) under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as authorized under Section 211(o)(7) of the Clean Air Act (CAA)(42 U.S.C. §7545(o)(7)) as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. A number of Governors across the country, including Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, have requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant expedited RFS waivers in response to the impact COVID-19 is having on the refining industry.

Demand for refined products for air transportation, the global delivery of goods, petrochemicals, and other motor fuels continue to decline at rapid rates. As a result, refineries across the country are struggling to keep their facilities open and their employees employed. Unfortunately, refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast have already cut production between 20 and 33.3 percent because of shrinking storage capacity as gasoline and jet fuel demand continue to decline with refinery closures occurring worldwide.

If the EPA does not act to expeditiously approve these waivers, refineries across the nation will be forced to shut down production entirely leaving thousands unemployed and our national security at risk. Thank you for your continued support of the State of Louisiana and for your leadership during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy  
United States Senator