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NANCY ANDERSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

December 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert Latta
United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 3109, Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining (REFINER) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Latta,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, we write to express our strong support for H.R. 3109, the REFINER Act, which calls upon the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a comprehensive report on petrochemical refineries in the United States.

Our recent correspondence to President Donald J. Trump urgently called for federal intervention to address California's collapsing energy production, refining capacity, and fuel infrastructure. In that letter, we cited strategic risks to military readiness, proposed the designation of Kern County as a National Resource Development Zone, and requested invocation of the Defense Production Act to prioritize domestic fuel and energy supply for national defense, positions that stand in direct synergy with your legislation.

Kern County is home to over 70% of California's in-state oil production and serves as a critical energy hub supporting national defense, economic stability, and energy resilience. Our region directly supports key military installations such as Edwards Air Force Base and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and contributes significantly to the reliability of fuel supply across the western United States.

The REFINER Act's focus on assessing refinery capacity, identifying expansion opportunities, and evaluating the impact of federal and state regulations is both timely and essential. California's refining infrastructure has suffered significant setbacks over the past three decades, with closures and conversions outpacing new development. This has led to increased reliance on foreign crude, fragile fuel transport systems, and minimal reserves, conditions that pose serious risks to military readiness and national security.

We are particularly encouraged by the Act's directive to examine:

- The strategic role of domestic petrochemical refineries in ensuring energy security;
- The risks and vulnerabilities facing current refinery operations;
- The regulatory landscape contributing to declining capacity; and
- Recommendations to strengthen and expand refining infrastructure.

Kern County stands ready to contribute to this national effort. We urge Congress to swiftly advance H.R. 3109 and ensure that the findings of the National Petroleum Council are used to guide policy decisions that protect and enhance our domestic energy capabilities.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to secure a resilient and secure energy future for our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern County Congressional Delegation
 Honorable Members, Kern County Legislative Delegation
 U.S. Department of Energy
 U.S. Department of Defense
 Townsend Public Affairs
 Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange