



December 29, 2011

The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1501 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Larson:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

The New England Fuel Institute (NEFI), established in 1942, represents some 1,200 home heating fuel retailers or “dealers” and related services companies in the six New England states. These companies are small, multi-generation family owned- and operated-businesses that care deeply for their communities and customers. They are helping to meet consumers’ needs through customized delivery, payment and budget programs and many sell discounted fuel to low-income families enrolled in fuel assistance programs. When there is real need, our members will often deliver fuel without regard for a customer’s ability to pay. Heating oil providers will not leave Americans out in the cold this winter.

We invite the Congress to join us by considering the following policy initiatives:

### ***Home Energy Efficiency & Conservation***

The most immediate way to lower home heating costs is through efficiency, conservation and consumer education. For ten years, the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) was instrumental in transitioning the industry to a cleaner, low-sulfur fuel that will utilize cutting-edge efficiency technologies and renewable energy such as sustainable biofuels. These efforts have already dramatically reduced fossil fuel use. NORA also offers conservation and safety programs and proper training for industry professionals, including service managers and technicians. You can find more on the benefits to your constituents at [www.supportnora.org](http://www.supportnora.org).

Unfortunately, the federal statute authorizing NORA expired on February 6, 2010 and Congress has yet to renew it. Now more than ever, oilheat states, businesses and consumers need this valuable program to help reduce consumption and bring to market a new generation of efficient and renewable home heating technologies. Please consider cosponsoring the NORA Reauthorization Act (H.R.1756). We hope you will also urge passage of a temporary extension of the program until Congress can act on a long-term measure.

Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

### ***Support for Energy Assistance Programs***

For many low income families and elderly and disabled Americans, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers some relief in these troubled times. Further, an increasing number of

veterans also rely on the program. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, the number of veterans being served has increased to 20%. At least 12% of the 1.8 million veterans receiving the benefit have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Another 7% is serving active-duty personnel and their families.

While our nation faces major fiscal challenges, LIHEAP cuts affect millions of households and thousands of veterans, active-duty military and their families. We applaud you and the entire Congress for rejecting the President's proposed 50% cut to LIHEAP for fiscal year 2012. However, the current funding level of \$3.5 billion is \$1.6 billion below the amount authorized and will fail to meet the public need, especially if the economic and unemployment crises persist. Congress must fully fund the LIHEAP program for FY13.

### ***American Energy Independence***

Alternative energy sources such as biofuels grow increasingly popular and have been embraced by our industry. Yet we must also acknowledge the immediate needs of American consumers who will continue to be dependent on fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. Recent crude oil discoveries within the contiguous United States, especially in North Dakota and Ohio, can put us on the path to energy independence. More than 2 million bpd of oil is immediately recoverable in proven reserves and millions more could be recovered elsewhere if prohibitions on exploration were lifted and infrastructure improved. Congress must enact a comprehensive energy policy that includes all American-made energy, including conventional fossil fuels.

We are disappointed with the President's recent decision to delay the Keystone XL oil pipeline until after the 2012 election. The pipeline would transport an additional 700,000 barrels per day of North American oil from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Canada to refineries in the Gulf Coast and then on to consumers. It would create up to 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs and thousands more in the broader energy industry. We applaud the passage of legislation to expedite the Keystone XL pipeline. We urge continued pressure on the Obama administration to make a decision in the best interest of American energy consumers.

### ***Energy Market Stability & Transparency***

We also believe in the importance of stable, transparent and responsive energy derivative markets and insist that the prices they set be reflective of real-world supply and demand fundamentals. For this reason, NEFI was a vocal supporter of derivatives market reforms included in Title VII of last year's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Act. Recent developments such as the collapse of MF Global highlight the need for these vital reforms. However, these market reforms are in real danger of being weakened, repealed or delayed. Congress must not allow this to happen. We ask your support for new legislation (such as H.R.3006) designed to protect and strengthen commodity trading rules, including vital limits on excessive speculation.

We are pleased that the Congress rejected the 15% cut to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) approved by the House last summer and applaud the \$3 billion funding increase. We urge your support for additional funding as necessary in the coming years to ensure vigorous implementation and enforcement of new trading rules. We also ask that you cosponsor H.R.3665 which would offset CFTC funding through a fee structure identical to the one used to fund the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Connecticut Vice President Rick Bologna of Westmore Fuel Co., Inc., Greenwich, CT  
Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association President & CEO Gene Guilford



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Courtney:

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Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association President & CEO Gene Guilford



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

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December 29, 2011

The Honorable Jim Himes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
119 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Unfortunately, the federal statute authorizing NORA expired on February 6, 2010 and Congress has yet to renew it. Now more than ever, oilheat states, businesses and consumers need this valuable program to help reduce consumption and bring to market a new generation of efficient and renewable home heating technologies. We hope you will support the pending NORA Reauthorization Act (H.R.1756) as well as passage of at least a temporary extension of the program until Congress can act on a long-term measure.

Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

### ***Support for Energy Assistance Programs***

For many low income families and elderly and disabled Americans, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers some relief in these troubled times. Further, an increasing number of

veterans also rely on the program. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, the number of veterans being served has increased to 20%. At least 12% of the 1.8 million veterans receiving the benefit have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Another 7% is serving active-duty personnel and their families.

While our nation faces major fiscal challenges, LIHEAP cuts affect millions of households and thousands of veterans, active-duty military and their families. We applaud you and the entire Congress for rejecting the President's proposed 50% cut to LIHEAP for fiscal year 2012. However, the current funding level of \$3.5 billion is \$1.6 billion below the amount authorized and will fail to meet the public need, especially if the economic and unemployment crises persist. Congress must fully fund the LIHEAP program for FY13.

### ***American Energy Independence***

Alternative energy sources such as biofuels grow increasingly popular and have been embraced by our industry. Yet we must also acknowledge the immediate needs of American consumers who will continue to be dependent on fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. Recent crude oil discoveries within the contiguous United States, especially in North Dakota and Ohio, can put us on the path to energy independence. More than 2 million bpd of oil is immediately recoverable in proven reserves and millions more could be recovered elsewhere if prohibitions on exploration were lifted and infrastructure improved. Congress must enact a comprehensive energy policy that includes all American-made energy, including conventional fossil fuels.

We are disappointed with the President's recent decision to delay the Keystone XL oil pipeline until after the 2012 election. The pipeline would transport an additional 700,000 barrels per day of North American oil from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Canada to refineries in the Gulf Coast and then on to consumers. It would create up to 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs and thousands more in the broader energy industry. We applaud the passage of legislation to expedite the Keystone XL pipeline. We urge continued pressure on the Obama administration to make a decision in the best interest of American energy consumers.

### ***Energy Market Stability & Transparency***

We also believe in the importance of stable, transparent and responsive energy derivative markets and insist that the prices they set be reflective of real-world supply and demand fundamentals. For this reason, NEFI was a vocal supporter of derivatives market reforms included in Title VII of last year's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Act. Recent developments such as the collapse of MF Global highlight the need for these vital reforms. As you know, these market reforms are in real danger of being weakened, repealed or delayed. Congress must not allow this to happen. For this reason, we commend you for cosponsoring H.R.2328. Please also consider supporting H.R.3006, which would further strengthen new limits on energy speculation.

We are pleased that the Congress rejected the 15% cut to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) approved by the House last summer and applaud the \$3 billion funding increase. We urge your support for additional funding as necessary in the coming years to ensure vigorous implementation and enforcement of new trading rules. We also ask that you cosponsor H.R.3665 which would offset CFTC funding through a fee structure identical to the one used to fund the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for the above policy initiatives. Together, we can bring real relief to American consumers this winter and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Neal:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

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Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable James McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
438 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Barney Frank  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER

Dear Congressman Frank:

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Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Niki Tsongas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Michael C. Trunzo  
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Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable John Tierney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Tierney:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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While our nation faces major fiscal challenges, LIHEAP cuts affect millions of households and thousands of veterans, active-duty military and their families. We applaud you and the entire Congress for rejecting the President's proposed 50% cut to LIHEAP for fiscal year 2012. However, the current funding level of \$3.5 billion is \$1.6 billion below the amount authorized and will fail to meet the public need, especially if the economic and unemployment crises persist. Congress must fully fund the LIHEAP program for FY13.

### ***American Energy Independence***

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Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for the above policy initiatives. Together, we can bring real relief to American consumers this winter and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Ed Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Markey:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

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Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Capuano:

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Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2348 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Lynch:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Michael C. Trunzo  
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cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Massachusetts Vice President Scott MacFarlane of MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, MA  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable William Keating  
U.S. House of Representatives  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Keating:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Massachusetts Oilheat Council President Michael Ferrante



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

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Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for the above policy initiatives. Together, we can bring real relief to American consumers this winter and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Maine Vice President Michael Estes of Estes Oil Burner Service, York, ME  
Maine Energy Marketers Association President Jamie Py



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Michael Michaud  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Michaud:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Unfortunately, the federal statute authorizing NORA expired on February 6, 2010 and Congress has yet to renew it. Now more than ever, oilheat states, businesses and consumers need this valuable program to help reduce consumption and bring to market a new generation of efficient and renewable home heating technologies. Thank you for cosponsoring the pending NORA Reauthorization Act (H.R.1756). We hope you will urge passage of a temporary extension of the program until Congress can act on a long-term measure.

Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

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veterans also rely on the program. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, the number of veterans being served has increased to 20%. At least 12% of the 1.8 million veterans receiving the benefit have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Another 7% is serving active-duty personnel and their families.

While our nation faces major fiscal challenges, LIHEAP cuts affect millions of households and thousands of veterans, active-duty military and their families. We applaud you and the entire Congress for rejecting the President's proposed 50% cut to LIHEAP for fiscal year 2012. However, the current funding level of \$3.5 billion is \$1.6 billion below the amount authorized and will fail to meet the public need, especially if the economic and unemployment crises persist. Congress must fully fund the LIHEAP program for FY13.

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Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Maine Vice President Michael Estes of Estes Oil Burner Service, York, ME  
Maine Energy Marketers Association President Jamie Py



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Frank Guinta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1223 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Guinta:

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Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

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We share your disappointment over the President's decision to delay the Keystone XL oil pipeline until after the 2012 election. The pipeline would transport an additional 700,000 barrels per day of North American oil from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Canada to refineries in the Gulf Coast and then on to consumers. It would create up to 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs and thousands more in the broader energy industry. We applaud the passage of legislation to expedite the Keystone XL pipeline. We urge continued pressure on the Obama administration to make a decision in the best interest of American energy consumers.

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Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
New Hampshire Vice President Dana Jones of White Mountain Oil & Propane, North Conway, NH  
Oilheat Council of New Hampshire Executive Director Robert Scully



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Charles Bass  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Bass:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Unfortunately, the federal statute authorizing NORA expired on February 6, 2010 and Congress has yet to renew it. Now more than ever, oilheat states, businesses and consumers need this valuable program to help reduce consumption and bring to market a new generation of efficient and renewable home heating technologies. We commend you for championing the NORA Reauthorization Act (H.R.1756). We hope for passage of at least a temporary extension of the program until Congress can act on your longer-term measure.

Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

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cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
New Hampshire Vice President Dana Jones of White Mountain Oil & Propane, North Conway, NH  
Oilheat Council of New Hampshire Executive Director Robert Scully



December 29, 2011

The Honorable David Cicilline  
U.S. House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

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Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island Executive Director & CEO Julie Gill



December 29, 2011

The Honorable Jim Langevin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
109 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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December 29, 2011

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RELIEF FOR AMERICANS THIS WINTER**

Dear Congressman Welch:

Winter is upon us. Across the country, millions of Americans are turning up their thermostats to keep their families safe and warm. But at the same time they are experiencing unprecedented hardships including a depressed economy, high unemployment and volatile energy prices. As a member of Congress, there are several ways in which you can bring these consumers some much-needed relief.

The New England Fuel Institute (NEFI), established in 1942, represents some 1,200 home heating fuel retailers or “dealers” and related services companies in the six New England states. These companies are small, multi-generation family owned- and operated-businesses that care deeply for their communities and customers. They are helping to meet consumers’ needs through customized delivery, payment and budget programs and many sell discounted fuel to low-income families enrolled in fuel assistance programs. When there is real need, our members will often deliver fuel without regard for a customer’s ability to pay. Heating oil providers will not leave Americans out in the cold this winter.

We invite the Congress to join us by considering the following policy initiatives:

### ***Home Energy Efficiency & Conservation***

The most immediate way to lower home heating costs is through efficiency, conservation and consumer education. For ten years, the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) was instrumental in transitioning the industry to a cleaner, low-sulfur fuel that will utilize cutting-edge efficiency technologies and renewable energy such as sustainable biofuels. These efforts have already dramatically reduced fossil fuel use. NORA also offers conservation and safety programs and proper training for industry professionals, including service managers and technicians. You can find more on the benefits to your constituents at [www.supportnora.org](http://www.supportnora.org).

Unfortunately, the federal statute authorizing NORA expired on February 6, 2010 and Congress has yet to renew it. Now more than ever, oilheat states, businesses and consumers need this valuable program to help reduce consumption and bring to market a new generation of efficient and renewable home heating technologies. Thank you for cosponsoring the pending NORA Reauthorization Act (H.R.1756). We hope you will urge passage of a temporary extension of the program until Congress can act on a long-term measure.

Congress must also address inadequacies in the federal home efficiency (Section 25C) tax credit program. For years, oilheat consumers have been left out of the credit because of deficient eligibility language for oilheat furnaces and boilers. The current program is also insufficient in that it places a \$150 cap on the installation of appliances, limits the overall credit to \$500 and does not include labor costs. Congress should renew the Section 25C tax credits, but must also eliminate the appliance caps, increase the credit to at least \$1,000, include labor costs and revise the eligibility language for oil-fired appliances.

### ***Support for Energy Assistance Programs***

For many low income families and elderly and disabled Americans, the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers some relief in these troubled times. Further, an increasing number of

veterans also rely on the program. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, the number of veterans being served has increased to 20%. At least 12% of the 1.8 million veterans receiving the benefit have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Another 7% is serving active-duty personnel and their families.

While our nation faces major fiscal challenges, LIHEAP cuts affect millions of households and thousands of veterans, active-duty military and their families. We applaud you and the entire Congress for rejecting the President's proposed 50% cut to LIHEAP for fiscal year 2012. However, the current funding level of \$3.5 billion is \$1.6 billion below the amount authorized and will fail to meet the public need, especially if the economic and unemployment crises persist. Congress must fully fund the LIHEAP program for FY13.

### ***American Energy Independence***

Alternative energy sources such as biofuels grow increasingly popular and have been embraced by our industry. Yet we must also acknowledge the immediate needs of American consumers who will continue to be dependent on fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. Recent crude oil discoveries within the contiguous United States, especially in North Dakota and Ohio, can put us on the path to energy independence. More than 2 million bpd of oil is immediately recoverable in proven reserves and millions more could be recovered elsewhere if prohibitions on exploration were lifted and infrastructure improved. Congress must enact a comprehensive energy policy that includes all American-made energy, including conventional fossil fuels.

We are disappointed with the President's recent decision to delay the Keystone XL oil pipeline until after the 2012 election. The pipeline would transport an additional 700,000 barrels per day of North American oil from the Dakotas, Montana, Oklahoma and Canada to refineries in the Gulf Coast and then on to consumers. It would create up to 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs and thousands more in the broader energy industry. We applaud the passage of legislation to expedite the pipeline and while we may disagree on this matter, we hope that the administration makes a final decision in the best interest of American consumers.

### ***Energy Market Stability & Transparency***

We also believe in the importance of stable, transparent and responsive energy derivative markets and insist that the prices they set be reflective of real-world supply and demand fundamentals. For this reason, NEFI was a vocal supporter of derivatives market reforms included in Title VII of last year's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Act. Recent developments such as the collapse of MF Global highlight the need for these vital reforms. As you know, these market reforms are in real danger of being weakened, repealed or delayed. We commend you for your sponsorship of legislation designed to protect (H.R.2328) and strengthen (H.R.3006) commodity trading rules, including vital new limits on excessive speculation.

We are pleased that the Congress rejected the 15% cut to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) approved by the House last summer and applaud the \$3 billion funding increase. We ask for your continued support for additional CFTC funding as necessary to ensure vigorous implementation and enforcement of trading rules. We also applaud you for cosponsoring H.R.3665, which would offset CFTC funding through a fee structure identical to the one used to fund the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for the above policy initiatives. Together, we can bring real relief to American consumers this winter and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO

cc: Chairman of the Board Howard Peterson of Peterson Oil Service, Worcester, MA  
Government Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas Devine of Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT  
Vermont Vice President Rick Fleming, Fleming Oil Co., Inc., Brattleboro, VT  
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association Executive Director Matt Cota