



March 18, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

Together, our associations represent America's heating oil dealers, many of whom are small, second and third generation family-owned and operated businesses.

Over 9 million households in the United States rely on our quality product to heat their homes and keep their families warm. Approximately 80 percent of them reside in the Northeastern United States, where cold temperatures still linger. According to the New England Fuel Institute, the Northeast can expect a cold end to winter and a colder than normal spring. All the while oilheat dealers and their consumers are facing record prices. It is on their behalf that we urge you act immediately to release the 1.97 million barrels of product from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve by utilizing the discretionary authority provided you under 42 USC §6250b(a)(2).

Discretionary authority provided under federal law permits a release of product from the reserve; should circumstances result in a "regional supply shortage of significant scope and duration" and a release of product from the reserve would "assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact" of these events. We believe that such circumstances exist for the region.

Surging foreign demand for distillate fuel and the ongoing transition to lower sulfur distillate fuel for off-road use, combined with extraordinary volatility and price spikes in the futures markets, have placed unprecedented pressures on our member dealers and their customers. They are in need of immediate market relief and we urge you to come to their aid.

In order to reestablish some sense of market integrity for both crude oil and refined petroleum products, we also request that you immediately halt shipments of crude oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The reserve is already at 95 percent capacity, more than enough to satisfy the nation's energy needs in an emergency.

Again, on behalf of our member dealers and their customers, we urge you to act swiftly to provide relief for our nation's heating oil markets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, U.S. Secretary of Energy
The Honorable Jodi Rell, Governor of Connecticut
The Honorable John Baldacci, Governor of Maine
The Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor of Massachusetts
The Honorable John Lynch, Governor of New Hampshire
The Honorable Jon Corzine, Governor of New Jersey
The Honorable David A. Paterson, Governor of New York
The Honorable Edward Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Don Carcieri, Governor of Rhode Island
The Honorable Jim Douglas, Governor of Vermont