

National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA)

Background

Congress authorized NORA in 2000 to facilitate the liquid heating industry's efforts to provide more efficient, more reliable, and lower-carbon home heating and hot water to six million homes. As a government sanctioned "check-off" program, NORA receives \$0.002 at the wholesale level on every gallon of liquid heating fuel sold. NORA receives no federal funding and is 100% industry funded. As mandated by Congress, NORA directs annual fee receipts to support (1) Consumer Education, Safety & Training; (2) Research, Development & Demonstration; and (3) Heating Oil Efficiency & Upgrade Program.

NORA Initiatives

NORA's initiatives have helped to reduce oilheat consumption by 30 percent over the last decade, which amounts to nearly \$600 in annual savings per customer. Oilheat is used in more than 6 million homes, serving more than 16 million Americans across the country.

- Professional education, through the Technician Certification Program, provides continuing education, training and certification for oilheat service technicians as well as a professional pathway for students and entry-level technicians. The curricula include energy efficiency, reliability, safety and integrating low carbon liquid fuels.
- NORA program funding has helped develop highly efficient heating equipment, such as condensing boilers and furnaces, variable speed furnaces, variable firing rate burners with an emphasis on integrating low-carbon fuels for GHG reduction.
- NORA has demonstrated the viability of a *Net Zero Carbon Home* using low-carbon liquid fuels partnered with solar panels.
- NORA has opened the country's first liquid heating fuels research facility where low-carbon fuels and heating systems are researched, developed, tested.

To date, NORA has facilitated over 16,500 home heating system upgrades. These upgrades have resulted in:

- Total fuel savings after one year—2,812,303 gallons
- Total fuel cost savings after one year—\$13,770,00
- Total CO₂ emissions reduction after one year—40,850 tons
- Over 25 years—70 million fewer gallons, \$400 million less in fuel costs and a reduction of 1 million tons of CO₂

NORA Reauthorization

- Thanks to the leadership of bipartisan House and Senate leaders, NORA received a 10-year reauthorization in the 2018 Farm Bill (PL-115-334 §12531).
- However, due to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring methodology, the legislation requires NORA to place 25 percent of annual fee receipts in an escrow account for 10 years.
- While the escrow requirement is not ideal, long-term authorization is crucial for the liquid fuel heating industry to continue providing consumers with cleaner fuels and more efficient technologies.



“The Ask”

- Urge Congress to provide a five-year extension of NORA by amending section 713 of the *National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000* (42 U.S.C. 6201 note; Public Law 106-469) to strike “28 years” and insert “33 years.”
- An extension through October 1, 2033, provides NORA with the needed certainty to continue long-term research, certifications, and partnerships.

(Committees: House and Senate Agriculture Committees, House Energy & Commerce Committee, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee)

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