

## National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) And Additional Heating Fuel Issues

### Background

Congress authorized NORA in 2000 to facilitate the liquid heating industry's efforts to lower emissions and provide more reliable home heating and hot water to six million homes. NORA receives \$0.002 at the wholesale level on every gallon of liquid heating fuel sold in the 21 states who voluntarily participate in the NORA program. NORA receives no federal or state appropriations 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

#### Consumer Education, Safety & Training

#### Technician Certification Program—certifications, continuing education & workforce training for entry-level & experienced liquid fuel service technicians

- Recognized Technician Certification for the liquid heating fuels industry
- NORA Silver Certification is required to practice in New Hampshire, Vermont and Putnam County, NY
- Online & in-person training at State association training centers, technical high schools & community colleges
- NORA Bronze apprenticeship program offers a professional pathway for student and entry-level technicians

**32,000+**

Service Technicians Trained  
under NORA's Professional  
Education Program

#### Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D)

#### NORA's RD&D results deliver consumer products that reduce emissions & lower energy costs for hardworking Americans.

- Bioheat® fuel, an efficient and direct path to lowering emissions from homes
- Advanced heating systems that can operate with renewable biofuels
- Advanced research for storing, handling and utilizing alternative fuels
- Partnering with appliance manufacturers to advance efficiency, operability, & safety of home heating systems
- NORA's RD&D activities are conducted at the Country's first liquid heating fuels research center in Plainview, NY

**16,500+**

Liquid fuel fired appliances  
upgraded with NORA's Efficiency  
Upgrade Program

#### Heating Oil Efficiency & Upgrade Program

#### Heating Appliance Upgrade Program—helping thousands of homeowners upgrade to a more efficient heating system.

NORA has completed over 16,500 upgrades in 21 states. Since January, 2021 upgrades have resulted in:

- Over 1.75 million gallons of total fuel savings each year due to the upgrade
- More than \$6.3 million in total fuel cost savings each year due to the upgrade
- Nearly 25,593 metric tons of total CO2 emissions each year due to the upgrade

**25,593+ tons**

Annual emissions reduction as  
a result of NORA's Efficiency  
Upgrade Program

## “The Ask”

### Support NORA Reauthorization (*Committees: House and Senate Agriculture Committees*)

**NORA reauthorization is crucial for the liquid fuel heating industry to continue providing consumers with advanced alternative fuels, innovative technologies, and cost-savings.** NORA has enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support since its initial authorization in 2000.

- We urge Congress to support an extension of the NORA program that will provide NORA with the needed certainty to continue long-term research and development, real estate leases, education training certifications, and partnerships.

### Support the *Energy Choice Act* (H.R. 3699, S 1945) (*Committees: House Energy and Commerce, Senate Energy and Natural Resources*)

**The *Energy Choice Act* would ensure Americans can maintain their preferred energy source, promoting market competition and an all-of-the-above energy approach.**

The legislation would:

- Prohibit states or local governments from discriminating against types or sources of energy through bans on an energy service's connection, reconnection, modification, installation, or expansion.
- Allow Americans to select the heating solution best suited for their household and budget.
- Maintain the availability of more energy efficient fuels like biomass-based diesel and renewable diesel.

### Support the *Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve* (H.R. 6933) (*Committees: House Energy and Commerce*)

The Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve (NEHHOR) is a critical energy security asset designed to protect consumers in the Northeast from supply disruptions and price spikes during periods of peak demand, particularly in the winter months. With millions of households in the region relying on heating oil, maintaining a ready and reliable reserve is essential to ensuring affordability and access during emergencies.

Congress and the Administration should prioritize continued funding, modernization, and operational flexibility for NEHHOR. This includes maintaining adequate reserve volumes, ensuring timely release mechanisms, and evaluating opportunities to expand storage capacity or improve geographic distribution to better serve vulnerable populations.

Strengthening NEHHOR represents a practical, targeted tool to stabilize markets and protect consumers without distorting broader fuel pricing dynamics. At a time of heightened geopolitical uncertainty, a robust and responsive reserve provides an important safeguard against changes in supply and price volatility.

### Extend the *\$1 per Gallon Biodiesel Blender's Tax credit (40A)* (*Committees: House Ways and Means, Senate Finance*)

The \$1/gallon biodiesel blender's tax credit enables fuel marketers to deliver more affordable, cleaner-burning options to American consumers — including BioHeat® fuel blends that are available today in strengths ranging from 5% biodiesel (B5 BioHeat®) to 20% biodiesel (B20 BioHeat®). The heating oil industry has a clear roadmap to achieve net-zero emissions: steadily increasing the percentage of biodiesel in BioHeat® while deploying highly efficient heating equipment.

A non-retroactive extension of the Section 40A tax credit is essential to keeping this progress on track. With energy costs continuing to climb, extending the credit represents a practical, immediate step toward stabilizing fuel prices and providing meaningful relief to families and businesses that depend on home heating oil, diesel, and other petroleum-based fuels.

**Permanently Waive the Jones Act (Committees: House Transportation; Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation)**

- Waive the Jones Act (Merchant Marine Act of 1920): Temporarily allow foreign-flagged ships to transport fuel between U.S. ports to ease distribution bottlenecks. EMA applauds the Trump Administration for issuing the 60-day waiver in March 2026 and strongly urges Congress to pass a permanent solution.

---

**EMA Staff Contact:** Rob Underwood, [runderwood@emamerica.org](mailto:runderwood@emamerica.org), Austin Harrison, [Austin.harrison@squirepb.com](mailto:Austin.harrison@squirepb.com)