

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2022

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

With winter quickly approaching, we are writing to request swift action to lower heating costs for New England residents by releasing stockpiles from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve (NEHHOR). As you know, world energy markets have experienced massive fluctuations over the last several months on account of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This is compounded by strain on the global supply chain associated with the COVID pandemic and an active hurricane season. These market strains disproportionately impact New England households many of which depend on home heating oil to heat their homes.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has reported that diesel and heating oil inventories are 63% below the five-year average in the Northeast. The NEHHOR stores one million barrels of ultra-low sulfur diesel for heating oil.<sup>1</sup> By law, the president is authorized to release oil from the NEHHOR in the event of a "severe energy supply disruption," or a "regional supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under this section would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage."<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, Putin and the COVID pandemic have inflicted a severe energy supply disruption, and with winter approaching it is critical that you quickly release oil from these reserves to help families stay warm this winter.

The New England congressional delegation has consistently pressed for action to ensure affordable heating for New England families. Most recently every Member of the New England House delegation voted to increase funding to Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$1 Billion in the government funding package. This is an important first step, but it must be coupled with the release of these reserves to fully insulate our communities.

Families should not be forced to make hard choices about keeping loved ones warm and healthy and putting food on the table. We stand ready to work with you and your administration to take

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<sup>1</sup>Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response, Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve  
<https://www.energy.gov/ceser/northeast-home-heating-oil-reserve-1>

<sup>2</sup>42 U.S. Code § 6250b - Conditions for release; plan, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/6250b>

the steps necessary to shore up New England's supply of heating oil so that families throughout our states are not faced with this impossible choice.

Sincerely,



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



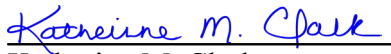
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



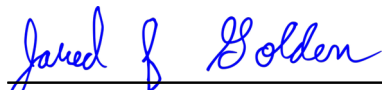
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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



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David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



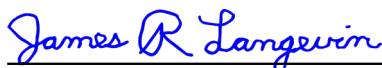
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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



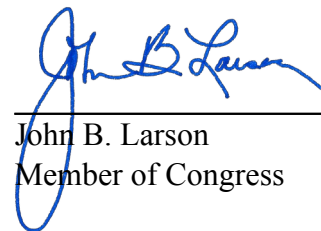
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



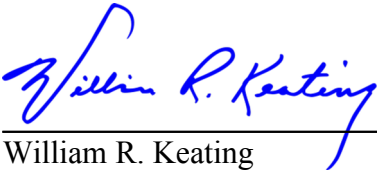
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress