

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Secretary Wright:

We write to ask that you take immediate action to address the impact on our constituents of the rapidly rising cost of heating oil fueled by the President's war in Iran and the administration's failed policies. Today, the price of heating oil is around 60 percent higher than before the Iran war.¹ The costs will be borne by American households struggling to heat their homes this winter while making ends meet. Instead of continuing down this path, we urge you to support an immediate end to the war and to stop blocking or restricting Department of Energy (DOE) programs that would help American families lower their energy bills.

Heating oil costs for the upcoming winter are projected to reach record levels, and families throughout the northeastern United States will likely bear the brunt of these costs. American families that rely on heating oil are projected to pay about \$600 more to keep their homes warm this winter than last year.² The price of heating oil has steadily risen to more than \$4 a gallon, nearing record highs.³ Families from our states will shoulder the brunt of these prices: around one-third of New England homes rely on heating oil to heat their homes, and in some states, around half do.⁴ Families that warm their homes with heating oil are estimated to see their energy bills spike from \$1,740 to around \$2,300,⁵ placing immense strain on families and forcing them to make impossible decisions about whether to keep the heat on, the fridge stocked, or critical medical necessities in supply.⁶

The President's war in Iran has played a large part in driving up the price of heating oil. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted global trade in crude oil and impacted global supplies of heating oil and diesel, both refined products distilled from crude oil.⁷ Before the Iran war, crude was trading at \$72 a barrel; now, the price for crude oil has jumped to more than \$100

¹ New York Times, "Iran War Will Make Winter More Expensive for Some Americans," Aruni Soni, September 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/18/business/energy-environment/heating-oil-winter-iran-war.html>.

² CNN, "Get ready for a 30% jump in heating oil costs this winter as Iran war drives up prices," Tami Luhby, September 14, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/14/business/heating-oil-costs-rise-iran-war>.

³ *Id.* Energy Information Administration, "Today in Energy," <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/prices.php>.

⁴ Mass.gov, "Massachusetts Home Heating Profile," 2026, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-home-heating-profile>; Axios, "Home heating oil bills are rising," Matt Phillips, September 9, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/09/09/heating-oil-diesel-price-surge>.

⁵ National Energy Assistance Directors Association, "Winter Heating Report," September 14, 2026, p. 1, <https://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/winterheatingreport.pdf>.

⁶ Proceedings of the National Academies of the Sciences, "Behavioral and financial coping strategies among energy-insecure households," Sanya Carley, Michelle Graff, David M. Konisky et al., August 29, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2205356119>.

a barrel.⁸ Government reports indicate that national supplies of distillate fuel oil, which includes heating oil, are at their lowest levels on record.⁹ The Energy Information Administration (EIA) has assessed that constrained global supplies are “contributing to low U.S. diesel inventories and high diesel prices.”¹⁰

Meanwhile, U.S. refiners and fossil fuel companies have seen banner profits while shipping heating oil abroad.¹¹ As EIA notes, constraints in the global supply for heating oil have “raised domestic prices and incentivized U.S. exporters to increase distillate exports.”¹² U.S. weekly exports of distillate products, including heating oil, hit a record high in August.¹³ President Trump promised that high energy prices would be a “small price to pay” for a “little while” at the start of the war.¹⁴ In March 2026, you said that “prices have likely peaked and they’ll start going down,”¹⁵ stating that “[t]his is a weeks...not a months thing.”¹⁶ Yet, months later, energy prices have continued to surge.

Adding insult to injury, the Trump administration has made heating for the upcoming winter season even more expensive in other ways.

- The administration has attempted to eliminate the \$4 billion Low-Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that supports families with high energy bills.¹⁷

⁷ The New York Times, “Iran War Will Make Winter More Expensive for Some Americans,” Aruni Soni, September 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/18/business/energy-environment/heating-oil-winter-iran-war.html>; Heatmap, “New Englanders Will Pay Through the Nose to Stay Warm This Winter,” Matthew Zeitlin, September 11, 2026, <https://heatmap.news/energy/new-england-heating-oil>.

⁸ National Energy Assistance Directors Association, “Winter Heating Report,” September 14, 2026, <https://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/winterheatingreport.pdf>; Associated Press, “Oil surges above \$100 a barrel as US and Iran launch new attacks, while gasoline prices also jump,” Wyatt Grantham-Philips and Cathy Bussewitz, September 9, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/oil-prices-iran-attack-saudi-brent-crude-7538e6386a819bcd2547d530ec3472e>.

⁹ Heatmap, “New Englanders Will Pay Through the Nose to Stay Warm This Winter,” Matthew Zeitlin, September 11, 2026, <https://heatmap.news/energy/new-england-heating-oil>.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, “Short-Term Energy Outlook,” September 9, 2026, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/>.

¹¹ Axios, “Home heating oil bills are rising,” Matt Phillips, September 9, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/09/09/heating-oil-diesel-price-surge>.

¹² U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, “Short-Term Energy Outlook,” September 9, 2026, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/>.

¹³ U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, “Petroleum & Other Liquids,” September 16, 2026, <https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/>.

¹⁴ ABC, “‘Small price to pay’: What has Trump said about oil prices during the Iran war?” Max Zahn, September 11, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/Business/small-price-pay-trump-oil-prices-iran-war/story?id=136270223>.

¹⁵ CNN, “Energy Secretary Chris Wright pledges gas prices will come down: ‘This is a weeks... not a months thing.’”, Jake Tapper, March 8, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/03/08/politics/video/energy-secretary-wright-responds-record-high-gas-prices-iran-strikes>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ WCNC Charlotte, “Trump proposes ending LIHEAP program, cutting aid for energy bills,” Katrina Morgan, April 3, 2026, <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/nation-world/trump-proposes-ending-liheap-program-cutting-aid-energy-bills/>.

- The administration has effectively increased taxes on solutions to the heating cost crisis, by eliminating four tax credits and deductions that supported residential and commercial building energy efficiency upgrades.¹⁸
- The administration has cut more than \$20 billion in clean energy and grid modernization funding for hundreds of energy projects across the country that would have decreased costs for families.¹⁹

As Americans face immense difficulty with keeping the heat on, the administration appears to be cutting off all avenues for meaningful relief, handing out tax cuts to billionaires, spending tens of billions of dollars on an unnecessary foreign war, and jacking up costs for struggling families.

To address these costs for American families, we urge you to reverse course on the senseless war in Iran, undo the administration's cuts to clean energy and grid modernization programs, work with Congress to repeal the tax increases imposed on energy efficiency upgrades and other ways to lower heating costs, and end the administration's attacks on LIHEAP.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

CC:

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
 Secretary of Health and Human Services
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 200 Independence Avenue SW
 Washington, D.C. 20201

¹⁸ Congressional Research Service, "IRA Tax Credit Repeal in the FY2025 Reconciliation Law: Part 2," Nicholas Buffie, December 12, 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IN12625>.

¹⁹ Clean Air Task Force, "The high cost of retreat: Impacts of Department of Energy project cuts," November 21, 2025, <https://www.catf.us/2025/11/high-cost-retreat-impacts-department-energy-project-cuts/>; Smart Cities Dive, "EPA unlawfully canceled \$7B Solar for All program, judge rules," Robyn Griggs Lawrence, September 21, 2026, <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/epa-unlawfully-canceled-7b-solar-for-all-program-judge-rules/830904/>.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



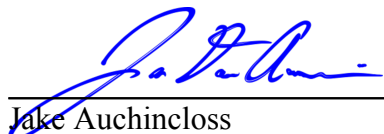
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Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



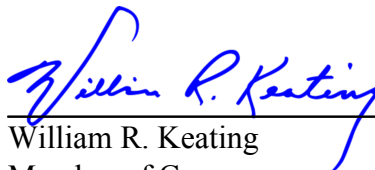
Jake Auchincloss
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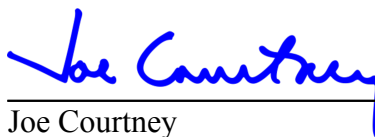
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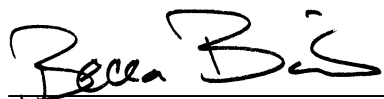
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



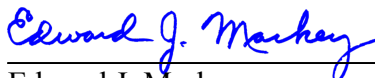
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Jack Reed
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Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



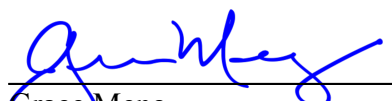
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



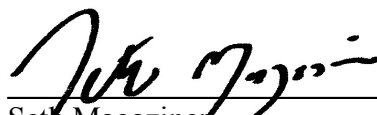
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Richard E. Neal
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Seth Magaziner
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Gabe Amo
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