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**STATEMENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND FUEL INSTITUTE
ON THE 2013 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS**

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Below is a statement from Michael C. Trunzo, President & CEO:

“Last night, President Obama announced his second term agenda and legislative priorities for the 113th Congress. In the area of energy and environmental policy, the President urged greater action to reduce carbon emissions, encourage cleaner domestic energy and reduce consumer costs.

“On behalf of the nation’s mostly small-business and family-run home heating oil providers and the more than 150,000 people they employ, the New England Fuel Institute is pleased to remind the President and members of Congress that America’s home heating oil industry has been a strong leader in this regard.

“Thanks to major progress in areas of conservation, efficiency and consumer education, the amount of fuel consumed by the average home has dropped over 40 percent in recent decades. Our industry is now moving towards a low-sulfur and, as a result, cleaner-burning fuel that will improve system performance, allow the introduction of new ultra-efficient technologies and provide even greater consumer savings.

“Many oilheat dealers have also embraced renewable fuels. By blending renewable fuels into home heating oil we can displace over 800 million gallons of petroleum and eliminate 9 million metric tons of carbon emissions each year. Overall emissions from this lower-sulfur, bio-blended and more efficient fuel have been shown to rival those of other heating fuels, including natural gas.

“We applaud the President’s call to reduce energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings. State and federal policies must be consistent with an ‘all-of-the-above’ approach that works with, not against, heating oil providers and that does not limit customer choice or pick one fuel over another.

“Secure and affordable energy is achievable but Washington must do more. Barriers to energy production need to be lifted. Greater investments must be made in energy infrastructure including approving the Keystone XL pipeline and facilitating Northeast access to lower-cost crude oil. Regulatory and tax burdens on small energy companies like those in our industry must also be addressed.

“As the President is well aware, we have long supported increased transparency, accountability and oversight in the energy markets. We commend the administration on the decision to defend speculative position limits in the courts and urge expedited rulemakings to implement needed reforms. We also remained concerned that Federal Reserve monetary policies are driving commodity price inflation.

“We are ready to work with the President and Congress in pursuit of a fair and sensible ‘all-in’ energy policy. The once unfathomable dream of North American energy independence is now within reach.”

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The New England Fuel Institute (NEFI) is a non-profit trade association representing approximately 1,200 mostly small business that market home heating oil and Bioheat® and other fuels. For more information visit www.nefi.com.

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