



March 6, 2014

The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Thune and Klobuchar:

The Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA) and the New England Fuel Institute (NEFI) applaud you for introducing the bipartisan “Reliable Home Heating Act” (S. 2086) which would provide relief to home heating fuel marketers during this extended period of inclement winter weather.

PMAA is a national federation of 48 state and regional trade associations representing over 8,000 independent petroleum marketers. These companies own 60,000 convenience store/gasoline stations and supply motor fuels such as gasoline and diesel fuel to an additional 40,000 stores. NEFI is nation’s largest independent home heating oil trade association, representing more than 1,000 home heating oil, kerosene and propane dealers and related services companies. Together, NEFI and PMAA members provide nearly all the gasoline, diesel fuel and heating oil sold to U.S. consumers.

The extreme cold weather seen across much of the nation has impacted distribution of home heating fuels to needy businesses and consumers. Under current law, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provides relief in the form of emergency declarations to temporarily waive federal Hours-of-Services (HOS) requirements and other regulations for heating oil and propane distributors. However, these declarations are limited to 30 days, which can create uncertainty and limit relief during times of great hardship.

The Reliable Home Heat Act would provide state governors with greater autonomy in extending these waivers up to an additional 60 days (for a total of 90 days). It would also provide an early warning system in which the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) would notify governors when propane or heating oil supplies fall below the most recent five year average for more than three consecutive weeks. Additionally, the legislation would extend current emergency declarations for 36 states through May 31, 2014. Of note, the House has already passed similar backed legislation, the “Home Heating Emergency Assistance through Transportation (HHEATT) Act of 2014” (H.R. 4076). We also supported H.R.4076.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that S.2086 reaches the President’s desk.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Gilligan  
President, PMAA

  
Michael C. Trunzo  
President & CEO, NEFI