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**TESTIMONY OF ENVIRONMENT NORTHEAST
TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
S.B. 382 AN ACT REQUIRING BLENDED HEATING OIL AND LOWERING THE
SULFUR CONTENT OF HEATING OIL SOLD IN THE STATE**

March 12, 2010

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator McKinney, Representative Chapin and members of the Committee. My name is Jessie Stratton, Director of Government Relations for Environment Northeast (ENE). ENE is a non-profit research and advocacy organization that focuses on energy, air quality and climate change solutions for New England and Eastern Canada. ENE appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the Energy and Technology Committee in favor of S.B. 382 *An Act Requiring Blended Heating Oil and Lowering the Sulfur content of Heating Oil Sold in the State*.

ENE strongly supports lowering the sulfur content of heating oil as proposed in the bill in order to dramatically reduce the damaging effects to human health, the environment and equipment of burning high sulfur heating oil. The phased in reduction called for in the bill would provide significant benefits beginning in 2011 while giving the refining industry a longer period to achieve the 15 part per million standard that is already the federal requirement for off-road diesel fuel.

EPA recently ruled that Connecticut's Regional Haze Implementation Plan or SIP was incomplete because current state law regarding lowering content is dependent upon action by neighboring states whereas EPA requires that a firm requirement, like the one in the proposed legislation, be in place by January 1, 2011.

ENE would raise significant caution with regard to the blending requirement in Section 2 of the bill. The ramp-up is very aggressive and should be evaluated in terms of a variety of potential impacts. Of even greater concern is the broad definition of qualifying biodiesel that would embrace fuels that may not have any environmental benefit in terms of reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Any provision related to assuring market or providing incentives for biofuels should require that such fuel yields at least a 50 per cent reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions relative to the average lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions for petroleum distillate fuel sold in 2005. "Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions" should be determined on the basis of the aggregate quantity of greenhouse gas emissions, including direct emissions and significant indirect emissions such as significant emissions from land use changes.

ENE helped draft provisions to this effect in legislations adopted in Massachusetts in 2008. I
The link to the Massachusetts' legislation is
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw08/sl080206.htm>.

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