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March 12, 2010

TO: Members of the Environment Committee
RE: Opposition to SB-382, Low-Sulfur Heating Oil/ Bio-Heat Mandate

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing to express our concerns about your proposed rule to reduce the sulfur content of home heating oil from 3,000 ppm to 50 ppm, and then 15 ppm.. While we understand and appreciate Connecticut's desire to significantly lower the sulfur level in heating oil, we believe the current proposal is excessive. Lowering sulfur nationally in transportation fuels has worked, but it has increased demand for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (ULSD - 15ppm), and higher pump prices for diesel fuel reflect that. If this proposal passes, higher diesel prices may take heating oil prices higher, too.

The recession has obviously dampened economic activity and has only temporarily lessened the need for this product. Of course, we are hopeful that we will soon have these very tough times behind us and strong demand for ULSD will have returned. We do not need or want additional and unnecessary demand for this lifeblood of our economy.

We respectfully recommend that you consider lowering the sulfur content of heating oil to 500 ppm, but do not mandate lowering it all the way down to 15ppm. Heating oil should remain a separate and distinct distillate pool. We also suggest you eliminate the bio-heat mandate, because there is little bio-fuel available in Connecticut; most of what will be used (soybean or palm oil) will have to be imported from other states or countries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Fiore".

Paul Fiore
Executive Vice President