



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Support for Renewable Liquid Heating Fuels and Home Energy Affordability

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

On behalf of the National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI), we would like to again congratulate you on your confirmation as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We appreciate your leadership and commitment to strengthening America's energy future, preserving consumer choice, and advancing energy reliability.

As a former member of Congress from New York, you know firsthand the importance of affordable, reliable home heating. Our association represents hundreds of multigenerational family businesses that deliver liquid heating fuels to nearly five million homes across the Northeast. This includes your former constituents on Long Island, where over one-third of homes rely on these fuels each winter.

The EPA manages several programs important to our members, including the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). We request your support for higher advanced biofuel volumes under the RFS for 2026 and beyond, specifically increasing the biomass-based diesel (BBD) renewable volume obligation (RVO) to 5.25 billion gallons for 2026, with progressive increases thereafter.

Increased availability of biodiesel and renewable diesel is critical to ensuring reliable supply and affordability in the home heating sector, particularly as New York's statewide blending requirement for heating oil increases to 10% this July. Maintaining RVOs that are consistent with U.S. production capacity and strong RFS credit (i.e., Renewable Identification Number or RIN) values will be key to keeping these fuels remain competitive in today's market.


Energy efficiency is also important to reducing home heating costs while reducing potentially harmful emissions. NEFI and its industry partners successfully advocated maintaining liquid-fuel heating systems in the ENERGY STAR® program after the previous administration initially proposed to remove them, working with manufacturers to include requirements for oil-fired furnaces to be designed for use with higher blends of renewable fuels. We would like to see similar renewable-fuel compatibility requirements extended to oil-fired boilers within ENERGY STAR® specifications, furthering the transition to renewable liquid heating fuels while preserving existing infrastructure and consumer investments – and more importantly, providing a lower cost alternative to heat pump conversions.

NEFI looks forward to working with you and your team to advance practical solutions that support consumer choice, ensure energy security, and promote the continued success of small, Main Street home comfort businesses. Our members are committed to reducing emissions through increased use of renewable fuels, deployment of high-efficiency equipment, and other market-driven approaches that maintain affordability and reliability for American families.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss these matters in greater detail.

Thank you for your service and best wishes in your new role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Collura" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James M. Collura
President & CEO
National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI)