



Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators  
FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson *EBE*  
DATE: January 25, 2010  
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation

I intend to introduce legislation that will incorporate oil heat fuel and off-road diesel into the Commonwealth's existing on-road biodiesel program. The bill would also limit the amount of sulfur contained in heating oil sold in Pennsylvania.

This proposal would result in significant environmental and energy efficiency benefits, as well as creating more jobs in the state's biofuel production industry and expanded opportunities for the agricultural community.

Over 1.1 million homes and thousands of commercial and other entities utilize oil heat fuel in Pennsylvania. A total of nearly one billion gallons of the distillate are consumed in the state every year. Pennsylvania is the second largest oil heat consuming state in the nation.

This initiative would require oil heat fuel to contain 5% biodiesel by May 1, 2011. That percentage would increase to 10% by May 2013. Made from new and used vegetable oils or animal fats, "bioheat" has the advantage of being biodegradable, nontoxic and renewable. Moreover, at the proposed blending percentages, no new heating appliance or retrofitting is required. When fully implemented, these provisions would reduce the use of petroleum by nearly 100 million gallons from current levels.

The legislation would also require that oil heat sold in the Commonwealth have a sulfur content not to exceed 15 parts per million (15ppm) by May 2011. This limit mirrors the federal ultra low sulfur requirement for both on-road and off-road diesel. The on-road ultra low sulfur requirement was fully implemented in 2009. The off-road ultra low sulfur deadline is August of this year. Utilizing ultra low heating oil would result in significantly more efficient and cleaner burning of the fuel in furnaces. The net effect would be cost savings in fuel use, as well as a reduction in the frequency of the need for the servicing of furnaces.

New opportunities for furnace manufacturers located in the state would result by the creation of this new fuel. The use of ultra low sulfur bioheat would also result in a significant reduction in particulate emissions, contributing greatly to overall state and federal goals of limiting PM 5. Additionally, it dramatically reduces the carbon foot print of the existing fuel.

The bill includes enforcement provisions needed by the Department of Agriculture to implement this proposal in addition to the 2% on-road biodiesel requirement in place to begin May 1, of this year. This legislation is strongly supported by associations representing the oil heat dealers and biodiesel producers.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Linda Kauffman at 787-1350 or [lkauffman@pasen.gov](mailto:lkauffman@pasen.gov).