RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
"PRINCIPLES FOR EQUITABLE AND RELIABLE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION"

Ratified at the 2025 Heating Fuel Industry Summit at the Heating & Energizing America Trade Show (HEAT Show), August 20-22, 2025

WHEREAS the heating oil industry is largely comprised of multigenerational family businesses that provide safe and reliable home comfort to millions of Americans and are voluntarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions, achieving a remarkable 26% reduction by 2023[1] – far exceeding the *Providence Resolution*'s initial target of 15% by that date[2] – primarily through deployment of higher blends of biofuels and energy efficiency improvements, representing one of the most successful decarbonization efforts in U.S. history; *and*

WHEREAS a May 2024 analysis concluded that the industry is on track to achieve its *Providence Resolution* goal of 40% by 2030, with the goal of delivering a net-zero emissions liquid heating fuel to consumers by 2050;[3] *and*

WHEREAS the industry has secured significant policy achievements in furtherance of these goals, including state biofuel blending requirements and incentives, federal cost-sharing infrastructure grants and tax credits for high-efficiency biofuel heating systems, and recognition from industry standards organizations for higher biofuel blends;[4] *and*

WHEREAS heating oil blended with advanced biofuels can provide up to 75% greenhouse gas reduction on a lifecycle basis,[5] while utilizing existing infrastructure and requiring minimal equipment modifications, and energy efficiency improvements can achieve 25% fuel savings, which, when combined with 100% biodiesel (B100), delivers over 80% greenhouse gas reduction[6] at a fraction of the cost of complete system replacement; *and*

WHEREAS despite these achievements, some government policymakers continue to pursue heating fuel and appliance bans and mandated electrification policies that disadvantage small businesses, eliminate consumer choice, and threaten energy reliability and affordability without achieving superior environmental outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment[7] and Northeast Independent System Operators (ISO-NE, ISO-NY, PJM) warn that unprecedented demand growth from electrification policies, coupled with winter natural gas constraints and generator retirements, could raise near-term supply shortfalls and result in peak-time shortages as the decade proceeds; *and*

WHEREAS these warnings do not yet fully account for unprecedented electricity demand from data centers, which consume 4.4% of total U.S. electricity and are projected to reach 12% within three years, while AI development – essential for American leadership and national security – will consume electricity equivalent to 22% of all current U.S. households by 2028,[8] effectively adding 28 million households worth of energy demand to the grid, thereby creating the urgent need to balance technological advancement with grid reliability and energy affordability; *and*

WHEREAS effective decarbonization policies must account for complex energy system realities including source emissions from electricity generation, constraints of electrical grid infrastructure, consumer economics, and regional energy security, rather than focusing solely on point-of-use emissions, and must recognize that research demonstrates heat pumps typically experience 60-80% dropout rates below 30°F, perform 20-30% below manufacturer ratings[9], and require substantial homeowner investments and electrical infrastructure upgrades; *and*

WHEREAS our industry offers hybrid heating solutions combining multiple technologies that provide resilience, reliability, and flexibility to optimize costs, comfort, and emissions reductions based on individual circumstances and personal preferences, while preserving the existing skilled workforce of heating fuel technicians whose jobs provide stable, well-paying careers that support families and local communities; *and*

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the vital role these businesses play in regional energy security, economic growth, job creation, environmental stewardship, and community welfare, and recognizing that effective decarbonization must be achieved through approaches that support our family businesses and strengthen rather than undermine energy reliability and affordability,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the participants in this Industry Summit establish the following policy principles that any federal, state, and local policy designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must incorporate to ensure equitable, reliable, and cost-effective residential decarbonization:

1. Consumer Choice and Preferences
Policies must promote market-based solutions that protect consumer choice in heating systems and fuels, recognizing that homeowners are best positioned to make decisions about their home comfort needs based on their family budgets and individual circumstances.

2. Comprehensive Emissions Accounting
Policies must account for full lifecycle emissions including source emissions from electricity generation, transmission and distribution losses, and fuel production – not merely point-of-use emissions – to ensure accurate environmental assessment and avoid shifting rather than reducing emissions.

3. Energy Affordability and Accessibility
Policies must prioritize energy affordability, particularly for vulnerable communities including low-income families, seniors and Americans with disabilities that are living on fixed incomes, and rural communities, ensuring that decarbonization efforts do not create or exacerbate energy poverty or impose disproportionate financial burdens.

4. Energy Security and Reliability
Policies must maintain energy system and electrical grid security and reliability and acknowledge warnings from experts at NERC and regional grid operators regarding risks from over-reliance on electricity during peak demand periods.

5. Recognition of Renewable Liquid Heating Fuels
Policies must fully recognize and incentivize the role of renewable and sustainable liquid fuels such as biodiesel, renewable diesel, renewable propane, and other advanced biofuels as immediate, cost-effective, and scalable solutions for reducing emissions while utilizing existing infrastructure. Policies must also recognize the time value of carbon reduction and not discount proven and more immediate carbon reduction pathways.

6. Energy Efficiency Priority
Policies must prioritize upgrading existing residential heating systems to higher efficiency modern appliances and equipment – many of which are now designed for use with 100% blends of biodiesel and/or renewable diesel – as a cost-effective means of reducing consumption and emissions while also reducing homeowner energy costs.

7. Support for Small, Family-Owned Businesses
Policies must support and sustain the thousands of mostly small, multigenerational family businesses that comprise the heating fuels industry, recognizing their essential role in providing reliable energy services, maintaining the economic vitality of their local communities, and providing good-paying careers.

8. Technology-Neutral and Pro-Innovation
Policies must promote technology-neutral decarbonization solutions while encouraging innovation, avoiding prescriptive electrification mandates that restrict consumer choice and discourage development of potentially more effective, affordable, and reliable alternatives.

9. Regional Flexibility and Adaptive Implementation
Policies must be adaptive and flexible, and account for regional differences in climate, energy resources, infrastructure, and economic conditions while providing gradual implementation timelines and flexibility to adjust based on technological developments, economic conditions, and reliability experience.

10. Industry Collaboration
Policies should align with and support stakeholder-led collaborations such as the *Providence Resolution*, which demonstrates that leveraging local industry knowledge and fostering adaptability leads to effective and sustainable decarbonization solutions through creative and innovative stakeholder-driven approaches.[10]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be submitted for consideration by the boards of directors of the National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI) and the governing bodies of regional, state, and local heating fuel and home comfort associations throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, establishing a unified industry voice for engagement with policymakers and the public; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these principles shall guide industry engagement with policymakers at all levels of government and serve as the foundation for evaluating proposed legislation, regulations, and policy initiatives affecting building energy systems; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the industry stands ready to work collaboratively with government officials, environmental advocates, consumer groups, and other stakeholders to develop and implement policies that achieve meaningful emissions reductions while upholding these essential principles; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the industry commits to continuing its leadership in voluntary emissions reduction through ongoing deployment of renewable liquid heating fuels, high-efficiency heating technologies, energy efficiency improvements, and innovative solutions that demonstrate that environmental progress and consumer welfare can advance together.

Presented by the Northeast Working Group (NEWG) on Industry Principles at the Industry Summit, Heating & Energizing America Trade Show, on August 22, 2025

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[1] National Energy & Fuels Institute, "Heating Oil Industry on Track to Achieve Net-Zero Emissions By 2050," April 29, 2024. https://nefi.com/news-publications/recent-news/heating-oil-industry-track-achieve-net-zero-emissions-2050

[2] New England Fuel Institute, "The Providence Resolution," enacted at the 2019 Industry Summit, Providence, Rhode Island, September 16, 2019. https://nefi.com/government-affairs-advocacy/providence-resolution/2019_Industry_Summit_Resolution_20190916_Final.pdf

[3] *Ibid*.

[4] Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard UL296 and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D6751-20a both now recognize blends of up to 100% biodiesel.

[5] Argonne National Laboratory, Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies (GREET) Model, lifecycle analysis showing biodiesel can achieve up to 75% greenhouse gas emissions reduction compared to petroleum diesel. https://www.energy.gov/eere/greet

[6] National Oilheat Research Alliance, "NORA Rebate Report," November 2021. https://noraweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NORA-Rebate-Report-Nov-2021-1.pdf

[7] Published December 2024, available at https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra.

[8] Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, "U.S. Data Center Energy Usage Report," December 2024. https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/lbnl-2024-united-states-data-center-energy-usage-report.pdf

[9] Raymond J. Albrecht, "Annual CO_2e emissions from residential heating systems in New Jersey," NJ Board of Public Utilities June 10, 2024. https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/DocumentHandler.ashx?document_id=1346148

[10] New England Fuel Institute, "The Providence Resolution," enacted at the 2019 Industry Summit, Providence, Rhode Island, September 16, 2019. https://nefi.com/government-affairs-advocacy/providence-resolution/2019_Industry_Summit_Resolution_20190916_Final.pdf