

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2026

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that you release home heating oil from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve to protect Mainers from the very high prices that are imposing a difficult financial burden.

You ordered a release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve earlier this year to help address rising costs, and we believe the same urgency now applies to the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

The Northeast is experiencing a home heating oil price spike. According to the Maine Department of Energy Resources' most recent weekly fuel survey, statewide heating oil prices in Maine have increased by 74 percent from this time last year. It now costs about \$675 more to fill a standard tank than it did last year – a significant hardship for the half of Maine households that heat their homes with fuel oil.

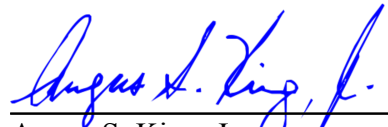
The U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest Short-Term Energy Outlook finds that U.S. distillate fuel inventories, which include home heating oil, fell below the five-year range in April and are expected to remain below the 2021–2025 low through the end of 2026 and most of 2027. According to the EIA, "Low inventories may also contribute to higher prices for residential heating oil in the Northeastern United States." Further, the conflict in the Middle East and the Russia-Ukraine War have prevented additional heating oil from reaching the global market. Maine is particularly vulnerable to global supply shocks because our state imports much of our home heating oil. With both domestic and international supplies running low, a release from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve would help ease these prices.

We appreciate your consideration of this important issue for the people of Maine.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator