

In the email subject: **Before end of session, please support S. 594, remediation of home heating oil releases**

[Note if your senator is one of the following they are both a bill co-sponsor and a member of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means: Anne M. Gobi, Barry R. Finegold, Bruce E. Tarr, Michael O. Moore, Ryan C. Fattman]

Dear Senator **[INSERT LAST NAME]**,

I am contacting you as a constituent to request your support before the end of this legislative session for S. 594, An Act relative to the remediation of home heating oil releases. This bill would make it mandatory for insurance companies to provide coverage for residential heating oil spills, thereby providing important consumer protection and environmental protection in the unfortunate event of a home heating oil leak or spill. As the social distancing challenges and economic fallout of the COVID pandemic continue, this legislation is urgently needed.

There are over 100 such incidents in the state annually and cleanup costs can range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for simple spills, to many hundreds of thousands of dollars for complex spills that impact both soil and groundwater. Only about 7% of all homes statewide that use oil heat have the specialized "liquid fuel release" coverage that would protect them. And most homeowners don't know that they are not protected if they have not opted in for this additional coverage.

As an **[LSP? Environmental risk assessor? Environmental consultant?]** I work on behalf of property owners and other involved parties on the assessment and cleanup of oil and hazardous materials released to the environment. **[If you have first-hand experience assisting with residential spill remediation or know someone who has experienced a spill, you could highlight the issues here].**

[I have, Or many of my colleagues have] worked with homeowners who have experienced spills or leaks of heating oil at their homes. In many cases, the spilled oil poses an immediate and significant health risk, forcing homeowners to leave their homes with little time to plan. This is particularly difficult during the pandemic as social distancing measures substantially reduce homeowners' options for safe temporary housing while cleanups are completed. Further adding to this extremely stressful situation, many homeowners are facing financial hardship and income uncertainty as a result of the economic recession triggered by the COVID pandemic. For them, the unexpected cost of a heating oil cleanup with no support from their insurer could be devastating.

[choose one or both depending on your Senator]

As a co-sponsor of the S.594 legislation, **[and/or]** As a member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I know you understand the importance of this legislation in establishing a fair and certain safety net to protect homeowners who rely on heating oil from the disastrous impacts of a spill.

In light of the current economic difficulties and logistical constraints imposed by the COVID pandemic, your continued support is of the utmost importance. I respectfully urge you to express to Senator Michael Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, your strong support for this legislation and urge a favorable report from the committee before the end of this legislative session.

Passage of S. 594 this session would not only protect the environment but it would also protect residents of the Commonwealth from the overwhelming stress and financial hardship of a cleanup. Timely action protects families and communities during this unprecedented time.

As your constituent, I thank you for your efforts in supporting this crucial piece of legislation. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

NAME

Home Address **[important to show you are a constituent]**

Phone number