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President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to request your assistance as America sits on the brink of yet another disaster. The threat this time will not be a hurricane from the south, but rather a cold front from the north. The citizens facing the wrath of nature will be primarily located in the Northeast and Midwest.

Prior to the hurricane season, the oil companies exported approximately 2.7 billion gallons of diesel and gasoline refined primarily in the Gulf region to foreign countries such as Mexico, Chile, Columbia, Netherlands, and France. (Energy Information Administration Petroleum Supply Monthly, September 2005, Table 48 & 50) This withdrawal of supply decreased inventories in the United States to dangerously low levels and set the stage for the huge price spikes that followed the hurricanes. When scarce supply is exported, the price of the commodity in the United States of America rises quickly.

The oil companies also exported large quantities of natural gas, propane, diesel and residential fuel oil to foreign countries as well. Natural gas from public lands in Alaska and the Gulf headed to locations in Mexico, Singapore, Indonesia and others. Residential fuel oil and diesel from refineries in the U.S. likewise was loaded on ships and sent to the Bahamas, Argentina, Peru, and Columbia.

With winter approaching, oil company exporting has again set the stage for a price spike. The consequence could well be an unprecedented increase in the price of residential heating oil, natural gas, and propane. Unlike motorists who have the ability to cut back on driving and gasoline consumption, Americans reliant on these petroleum products to heat their homes face a potentially life-threatening dilemma. As the price of heating oil skyrockets, the only recourse for many on limited or fixed incomes will be turning off their furnaces in the dead of winter. That is why we call upon you to use your executive powers to freeze exports to nations other than Canada.

Canada and the US trade refined products back and forth for the benefit of their citizens. Due to this relationship, exports to Canada do not effectively draw down supplies for Americans. Exports to other foreign destinations are another matter.

The table below shows the volumes of different petroleum heating products refined or produced in the United States that will not be available to heat American homes and businesses this winter as a result of oil company exporting.

The magnitude of the exporting is alarming when compared to the 2 million barrels stored in the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve under the control of your Administration.

Exporting, January-July 2005		
	Barrels	Gallons
Propane	7,732,000	324,744,000
Liquefied Petroleum Gas	11,628,000	488,376,000
Distillate Fuel Oil	34,095,000	1,431,990,000
Residential Fuel Oil	62,237,000	2,613,954,000
Total Fuel Oil	96,332,000	4,045,944,000
Total Heating Oils and Liquid Gas	115,692,000	4,859,064,000
Exporting Compared To The Volume Of The Northeast Heating Oil Reserve		
Residential Fuel Oil Only	31	Times the Reserve
Combined Fuel Oil Export Volume	48	Times the Reserve
Combined Fuel Oil, Propane, Natural Gas	58	Times the Reserve
Source: Energy Information Administration/Petroleum Supply Monthly, September 2005		

The total amount of exports this year will not be known until the EIA compiles the data later this winter. In the first seven months of this year, however, the oil companies exported over 96 million barrels (4 billion gallons) of fuel oil. The amount is 48 times the volume of the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve. When combined with the propane and natural gas that was also exported, the total export of heating products equates to 58 times the volume held in the entire publicly owned reserve in the United States.

Your Administration approved the relocation of 250,000 barrels of the emergency heating oil inventory to the Motiva Terminal in Providence, Rhode Island on August 6, 2001. Department of Energy Secretary Abraham stated. *"Stockpiling a portion of our heating oil inventory in Providence gives us a third geographic location from which we can distribute fuel to homeowners and businesses in the event of a supply shortage. Providence is especially advantageous because it extends our distribution capabilities into the Boston area and gives us additional truck and marine loading options."*

We applaud the effort to streamline the delivery system to better transport 250,000 barrels of heating oil to protect the citizens of Massachusetts and other nearby states in the event of a shortage. However, improving the efficiency of the delivery system for 250,000 barrels will not prove adequate to protect Americans from the exportation of 115 million barrels of heating oil and liquid petroleum gases.

Recently we received letters from students in a 7th grade class at Discovery Middle School in Canton, Michigan. They asked for our help with the rising price at the pump following Katrina.

Nicole Merget and her classmates offered a lesson in democracy with *"In school I learned about the Common Good. The Core Democratic Values say 'Individual citizens have the commitment and motivation to work together with other members for the benefit of all..... It seems that the oil companies are not following the core democratic value of the common good because they are raising the prices so they get more money. The common good is for the benefit of all'.*

Mr. President, with winter quickly approaching, we respectfully request that you use your powers to stop the exporting of heating oil products until the supplies in the United States are restored to a level needed to avoid a price spike. As the children in Canton, Michigan remind us: this would be an action that is taken for the common good of all Americans.

Sincerely,



Jamie Court
President



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