

In Opposition to Senate Bill No. 2530 (ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BIODIESEL PRODUCTS)

George Voutes, 200 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906

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To Chair Sosnowski and Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

I oppose S 2530 in its entirety. S 2530 kicks the transition to biodiesel blended heating oil down the road unnecessarily. Biodiesel blended heating oil is readily available today. These blended fuels are an effective means to reduce emissions in trucks, buses and heavy machinery across RI. Massachusetts mandates the use of biodiesel blended heating oil and for good reasons. RI can and should follow Massachusetts lead.

Extending requirements for heating oil to be B20 and B50 biodiesel blend by 5 years is yet another attempt by the sponsors of the bill to delay the responsible transition to cleaner fuels, while pandering to the fossil fuel industry who could care less about air quality and asthma levels in RI (among the highest in the country).

Biodiesel blend heating oil averages 3-5 cents more per gallon price than non-biodiesel heating oil. This increase hardly justifies delaying heating oil to be B20 and B50 biodiesel blend by any time delay, let alone 5 years!

Please do not advance this self-serving and fossil fuel industry friendly bill.

Thank you.

George VOUTES