

In the email subject: Please support S. 676, An Act relative to the remediation of home heating oil releases

Dear Senator **[insert last name]**:

I am reaching out as a constituent of your District to request your support for S. 676: *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.

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 more than \$300,000 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 they are unprotected unless they opt in for this coverage.

This issue has gotten significant media coverage over the past year; the most recent article being [an editorial](#) in the Boston Globe supporting this legislation.

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 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. Further adding to this extremely stressful situation, many homeowners are facing financial hardship and income uncertainty as a result of the pandemic. For them, the unexpected cost of a heating oil cleanup with no support from their insurer could be devastating.

I respectfully urge you to contact Senator Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, to express your strong support for this legislation and urge a favorable opinion from the committee.

Passage of legislation this session will protect residents of the Commonwealth from the overwhelming stress and financial hardship of a cleanup, and enable swift cleanup responses to environmental impacts.

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