

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1676

To permanently authorize the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To permanently authorize the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Oilheat Re-
5 search Alliance Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) Congress finds that—

8 (1) in 2000, Congress enacted the National
9 Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.

1 6201 note), authorizing a referendum to create the
2 National Oilheat Research Alliance;

3 (2) before enactment of that Act, similar legis-
4 lation had passed the Senate by unanimous consent
5 with 21 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and the House
6 of Representatives with 148 bipartisan cosponsors;

7 (3) the Alliance was approved by an industry-
8 wide referendum held in January 2001, with 97 per-
9 cent of oilheat retailers and 99 percent of oilheat
10 wholesalers voting in favor of creation of the Alli-
11 ance;

12 (4) during its nearly 3 years of existence, the
13 Alliance has operated in 21 States and the District
14 of Columbia, providing benefits for its members and
15 oilheat consumers in the areas of research and devel-
16 opment, safety, energy efficiency, training, and edu-
17 cation;

18 (5) the Alliance successfully created the Na-
19 tional Oilheat Research Institute, which is leading
20 the way toward developing a low-sulfur heating oil
21 product that will allow significant progress in reduc-
22 ing emissions;

23 (6) the Institute is also at the forefront of de-
24 veloping new efficiency techniques for existing heat-

1 ing oil units, providing substantial savings for the
2 energy costs of consumers;

3 (7) the Alliance is providing improved and up-
4 to-date training material for oilheat technicians, es-
5 tablishing a standardized certification program and
6 encouraging continuing education methods that re-
7 sult in efficient and highly trained professionals to
8 service their customers;

9 (8) the Alliance has prepared material for real-
10 tors and prospective home buyers for houses with ex-
11 isting heating oil systems, explaining how to make
12 the best use of oilheat and providing crucial safety
13 and energy efficiency information;

14 (9) the legislation providing for the creation of
15 the Alliance included a sunset provision that will re-
16 quire the Alliance to terminate activities in February
17 2005 unless Congress acts to extend the authoriza-
18 tion; and

19 (10) the outstanding progress of the Alliance in
20 the fields of research and development, safety and
21 training, and education, the nearly unanimous sup-
22 port from industry, and the strong potential to yield
23 future benefits for industry and consumers make the
24 Alliance deserving of permanent authorization by
25 Congress.

1 **SEC. 3. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION.**

2 Section 713 of the National Oilheat Research Alli-
3 ance Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 6201 note) is repealed.

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