

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: May 26, 2009

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz, Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: L. Meyerson (WCDOH); S. Glass (COWPUSA); A. Marmo (Clover); M. Wallach (CCE); Z. Wojnar (PECC); D. Bologna (Westmore); C. Bozic (Clean Fuels); L. Jones (ACS); I. Silverman (EDF)

Committee on Environment & Energy called to order at 3:40 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Clean Heat – Improving Efficiency and Emissions in Heating Systems**

Chair Abinanti commenced a discussion on low sulfur home heating oil by describing the activities and recommendations of the Healthy Air Task Force (HATF). The HATF previously recommended adopting a low sulfur heating oil standard. Chair Abinanti described previously introduced legislation to implement such standards.

Ms. Silverman then described an Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) study that assessed the current use and impacts of distillate and residual oils and projected costs and benefits of shifting to lower sulfur content. Mr. Kaplowitz questioned what increased costs are associated with lower sulfur heating oil. Mr. Bologna stated that the price range for ultra-low sulfur heating oil is a few cents to as much as thirty cents. Chair Abinanti noted that his discussion with a regional oil distributor indicates a few cents increase.

Mr. Glass noted that legislation was introduced in the New York legislature to require a lower sulfur standard. Mr. Bologna stated that the distribution industry would prefer to utilize a single standard, rather than multiple standards. Mr. Meyerson stated that pending bulk storage regulation will require operator certification, which suggests converting facilities to natural gas. Upon the motion of Leg. Kaplowitz, seconded by Chair Abinanti, the Env't. & Energy Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). [audio recording of the meeting is on file]