

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 07 FY 08/09  
DATE November 16, 2007

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A PRE-EMERGENCY ENERGY TASK FORCE ON  
ESCALATING HOME HEATING OIL AND DIESEL FUEL PRICES**

**WHEREAS**, the global price of a barrel of crude oil has dangerously surged to nearly **\$100/barrel** creating record prices, volatility and uncertainty in the world energy markets; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately **80%** of Maine homeowners and renters heat with petroleum-based fuels such as Kerosene or #2 heating oil; and

**WHEREAS**, the average Maine household consumes approximately **70%** of their energy use in heating their home; and

**WHEREAS**, households in Maine consume approximately **430** million gallons of home heating fuel per year and the average household consumes more than **1,000** gallons of heating fuel per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the statewide average cost for heating oil is approximately **20% higher** than last year and **100% higher** than heating oil prices in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, as of mid-October 2007 the heating oil inventories in New England stood at approximately 12 million barrels, **727,000 barrels less** than last year; and

**WHEREAS**, the households and businesses in the state of Maine spend more than **\$1 billion** on space heating with petroleum-based fuel oil, natural gas and propane; and

**WHEREAS**, the price of gasoline and diesel fuels have soared to record heights to nearly **\$3.50/gallon** for diesel and **\$3.24** for regular gasoline, **20% to 25%** above last years prices; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maine is overly dependent on foreign petroleum products to power its public and private transportation systems, its vehicles, planes and boats; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens, businesses and all levels of government spent more than **\$2 billion** a year on petroleum-based products to fuel our vehicles and transportation systems; and

**WHEREAS**, these high heating and transportation fuel prices are not projected to decline significantly in the near future, will create burdens on Maine people and businesses and threatens the safety and well-being of our people and harm our economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Pre-Emergency Energy Task Force on Escalating Home Heating Oil and Diesel Fuel Prices.

**Purpose and Duties**

The purpose and duties of the Energy Task Force shall be to:

1. Undertake the actions specified in the Maine Energy Emergency Plan (10/31/07) that shall include, but not be limited to, situation assessment, inter-government communication and coordination, proactive provision of public information, and readiness for emergency communication, sheltering and travel; and
2. Analyze specific steps that can be immediately taken to reduce the deleterious effects of high heating oil and diesel fuel prices on Maine people and businesses and recommend to the Governor and Legislature measures to help alleviate the safety risks and burdens these high prices are imposing on Maine people and businesses; and
3. Once preparedness steps and immediate action have been taken, propose specific measures to promote the availability and use of alternative fuels, including biodiesel and ethanol for use as heating and transportation and explore mechanisms for a home energy efficiency program for homes that heat with liquid fuels.

**Membership**

Membership of the Energy Task Force shall include, but not be limited to representatives of the following agencies, organizations and entities:

- Office of Energy Independence and Security
- State Planning Office
- Office of the Attorney General
- Maine Department of Transportation
- Maine State Housing Authority
- Department of Administrative and Financial Services
- Public Advocate's Office
- Public Utilities Commission/Efficiency Maine
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Governor's Office
- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- Charitable Organizations, Religious Institutions and Non-Governmental Agencies with relevant expertise

- Oil suppliers, dealers and distributors
- Business and industry and trucking companies
- Citizens with relevant expertise

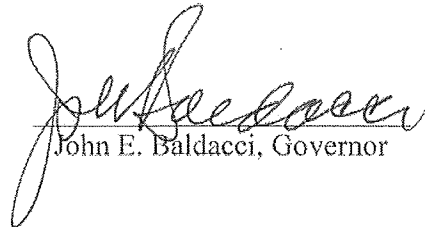
### Meetings

The Energy Task Force Chair shall be appointed by the Governor and shall report no less frequently than weekly directly to the Governor. The Chair shall call meetings of the Task Force and sub-groups of the Task Force as needed.

Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation. The Task Force shall be disbanded upon completion of its tasks and written approval of the Governor.

### Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is November 16, 2007.



John E. Baldacci, Governor