Your Name

Your address 1  
Your address 2

Your address 3

Your postcode

Date

Dear MLA name,

My home in your constituency currently has an oil heating system which I am very happy with.

I understand that the Government is looking at options for reducing carbon emissions from heating as part of a new NI Energy Strategy. In the proposals I understand that Government is keen to see the introduction of air source heat pumps to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

I am keen to cut the emissions from my property, but the cost of installing a low carbon heating system such as a heat pump are much higher than a replacement boiler. The associated energy efficiency improvements needed for my property would also be very costly and no grants are available to cover this expense.

I understand that an average air source heat pump system costs almost £11,000 to install. In addition, the Government estimates that the energy efficiency improvements needed for some oil heated homes to enable a heat pump to work efficiently could cost as much as £12,000 - £19,000, depending on the energy efficiency band (EPC) of the property. That is a minimum cost to me of c.£23,000.

If my existing oil boiler fails, it is unlikely that I will be able to afford the conversion cost to a heat pump and I would much prefer a solution that involves less expense and disruption.

I would welcome the opportunity to run my existing boiler on a renewable liquid fuel alternative to heating oil. I understand this option – called HVO – is being trialled in homes now by the liquid fuel heating industry and cuts carbon emissions by nearly 90%.

However, this solution is not currently eligible for any government schemes, now or in the future, whereas the fuel is being incentivised for use in transport. An HVO solution would save me the high cost and disruption of installing a completely new heating system and dramatically cut my emissions.

Heating my home affordably is important and I urge you to support the delivery of this fuel alongside other low-cost options and would be grateful if you could you make my views known to the most appropriate person in Government.

Yours sincerely,

Your name