



DAVID N. PARKER  
*President and CEO*

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2107

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the natural gas utility members of the American Gas Association, which provide natural gas service to more than 64 million homes and businesses throughout America, I write to thank you for introducing the "Energy Assistance for American Families Act." This bill would increase authorized funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to \$7.6 billion per year for fiscal years 2011 to 2014 – an increase of \$2.5 billion over current funding. The bill addresses head on the fact that, even at its current level of \$5.1 billion, LIHEAP is significantly underfunded, reaching only a portion of families in need of energy assistance.

Natural gas utilities play a major role in providing billions of dollars annually for energy program assistance to needy families. Many states also supplement LIHEAP with their own fuel assistance programs. But in spite of these efforts, energy assistance to those in need still falls short. And in light of current economic and job insecurity, it is imperative that LIHEAP funding is increased so that as many American families as possible can rely on it to manage monthly energy bills.

Again, thank you Rep. Markey for introducing this much needed legislation. AGA strongly supports the "Energy Assistance for American Families Act" and we call upon Congress and the administration to enact it into law so that no American family feels the bite of high home energy costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David N. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David N. Parker