

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H232 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides a vital safety net for our nation's low-income households. As you know, the current Continuing Resolution expires on December 3, 2010. As you work to develop an omnibus appropriations bill or further Continuing Resolution for FY2011, we urge you to fund LIHEAP through September 30, 2011 at least at the FY2010 levels of \$5.1 billion.

Because of the structure of LIHEAP, states are already being forced to make reductions in LIHEAP benefits as a result of the discrepancies between the funding levels set forth by the House and Senate. For instance in Massachusetts, average benefits are projected to be reduced by nearly 50 percent. Funding LIHEAP through the end of the fiscal year at the FY2010 level of \$5.1 billion is critical to restoring home energy assistance and maintaining economic stability for working low-income families, senior citizens, and disabled individuals. The number of households seeking LIHEAP assistance is projected to again reach record levels this year. However, the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association projects that funding LIHEAP at the FY2011 levels reported by the Senate would lead to roughly 2 million households nationwide being denied benefits.

At the same time, the Department of Energy (DOE) is projecting average household expenditures on many heating fuels to rise this winter. DOE projects that average household expenditures on heating oil will rise 12.6 percent nationwide and 14.5 percent in the Northeast. Expenditures on propane are expected to increase nearly 8 percent nationwide and more than 15 percent in the Midwest.

Funding LIHEAP for the remainder of FY2011 at least at the FY2010 level of \$5.1 billion is critical to ensure that low-income families, the disabled, and senior citizens do not have to face a choice between paying their home energy bills or affording other basic necessities such

as prescription drugs, housing, and food this winter. Thank you for your continued support of the LIHEAP program and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Mike Castle

Oak E. Goldberg

Benny Frank

Fourn

Louise Slaughter

Nydia M Velaz

Jan Van Halbe

Jim Oberstar

Pete Wahl

Ernst L. Engel

John F. Tierney

Jae E. Senant

Richard Shere

Cassidy McCaskey

Rush Holt

Niki Bongas

Bill Delahunt

Raul M. Nijalva

Carolyn B. M'Glary

Betty Sutton

Bill Owens

Michael H. McNamee

Bob White

John Paffaro
John Paffaro

Jim Langevin

Paul S. Tonko

Carl

Rob A. Brady

Julia Liss

Joe Courtney

Stratton

Tammy Baldwin

John Longo

M.S.A.

John Russell

Craine Brown

John W. Ohm

Michael E. Caputo

Maurice Diney

P. Holder

Rosa J. De Lauro

Joseph P. ...

Gerold Hadler

Gregory M. ...

Gene ...

Ron Kund

Tim Ryan

Alpha J. ...

Neil Ross

M. L. Dyle

Frank ...

Jim ...

Donna F. Edwards

Dani Moore

John Lewis

John ...

Ben ...
