

**An Open Letter Appeal to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives,
to Continue Funding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
at \$5.1 Billion in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012**

February 24, 2011

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As you prepare to fund the government for the remainder of FY2011, and as you determine the budget for FY2012, we ask that you continue to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the fully authorized level of \$5.1 billion for FY 2011 and FY2012.

LIHEAP has evolved into a widely supported, essential program that delivers critical short-term aid to our most vulnerable neighbors, including elderly on fixed incomes and the desperately poor. In the last two fiscal years, the LIHEAP program was funded at the \$5.1 billion level. This strong bipartisan funding commitment allowed LIHEAP to grow from a primarily regional program to a national one.

The number of households receiving assistance reached record levels for this year, increasing from 7.7 million to 8.8 million. Even though Congress funded LIHEAP at the \$5.1 billion level, that amount was still only enough to assist one in five eligible Americans.

This month, the House of Representatives approved many cuts for the next continuing resolution, which will fund the government for the remaining seven months of the fiscal year. The cuts include a reduction of \$400 million for LIHEAP contingency funds. Additionally, the Obama administration announced its FY2012 budget, which included a cut of \$2.5 billion to LIHEAP funding. A cut of this magnitude would result in more than 3 million households – or almost 9 million people – having to go without LIHEAP assistance.

The cuts are in response to the Obama administration's and Congress's very difficult fiscal challenges. We understand that tough decisions need to be made; however, we are extremely concerned that these proposed cuts will deny people heat and cooling, which are basic needs for survival. Not providing basic energy assistance for our low-income families, the millions of people seeking work, and even some middle-income Americans could force them to make painful choices between heating their homes or paying for other necessities such as food, medicine and clothing.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you to recognize these urgent priorities, even as we confront our nation's budget challenges.

Sincerely,

A Partnership for a Better Tomorrow
The Access Community Action Agency
Advocates For Basic Legal Equality
AGL Resources
ALLETE
Alliant Energy Corp
Ameren Services Xo
American Association of Blacks in Energy
American Electric Power Co
American Gas Association
American Public Gas Association
Arlex Oil, Lexington, MA
Atlanta Gas Light
Atlantic and Pacific Oil Company
Atlas Glen-mor, Chelsea, MA
Atmos Energy Corporation
Baltimore Gas and Electric
Berkoski, Heating, Southampton, NY
Berkshire Gas Company
Bisson Oil, Fall River, MA
Black Hills Energy
Black Hills Power
Borough of Chambersburg
The Breathing Association
Bristol Community Organization, Inc
BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont
Buckley Heating, Peace Dale, RI
Budd Oil, Hackettstown, NJ
Burke Heat, Hawthorne/Peekskill/Mt. Kisco/Brewster, NY
Burlington Community Action Program
C. Hoffberger, Baltimore, MD
C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
Campaign for Home Energy Assistance
Cape Human Resources
Carpenter & Smith, Monroe, NY
Cascade Natural Gas Co
Cathedral Community Development Corporation
Center For Food Action, NW, Mahwah, NJ
Charles W. Agar Inc., Gt. Barrington, MA
Chattanooga Gas Company
Cheshire Oil Co., Keene, NH
Cheyenne Light

Children's HealthWatch
Citizens Gas
City of Rocky Mount
City Utilities of Springfield, MO
Clearwater Gas System
Cleco Corporation
CMS Energy
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc
Coalition for Affordable Energy for All
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm
Columbia Gas of Kentucky
Columbia Gas of Maryland
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
Columbia Gas of Ohio
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
Columbia Gas of Virginia
Combind Oil Bronx, NY
Commonwealth Edison
Community Action Council of Howard County, Md
Community Action Human Resources Agency
Community Action Partnership
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc.
Con Edison
Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation
Constellation Energy
Cota & Cota, Inc., Bellows Falls, VT
CPS Energy
DC Office of the Peoples Counsel
DeBlois Oil, Providence, RI
Deiter Bros., Bethlehem, PA
Detroit Edison
Devine Bioheat, Norwalk, CT
Disciples Justice Action Network
Dollar Energy Fund, Inc.
Dominion
Downeast Energy Corp., Brunswick, ME
Dress for Success Hudson County
Duckett & Laird, Freehold NJ
Duke Energy
East Providence Fuel Oil Co., East Providence, RI

Eastern Petroleum, Annapolis, MD
Economic Opportunites Council of Indiana River County Inc
Edison Electric Institute
Edison International
El Paso Electric
Elizabethtown Gas
Elkton Gas
Energy Outreach Colorado
Energy Services of Pensacola
Entergy
Ermer Gas & Palmer Oil, Atkinson, NH
Family Service Association
Family Support Organization
FirstEnergy
Fleet Fuel Inc., Johnston, RI
Fleming Oil Co Inc., Brattleboro, VT
Florida City Gas
Florida Power & Light Company
Four Points, Baltimore, MD
Four Points, Reading/Tullytown, PA
Four Points, South Plainfield/Pennsauken, NJ
G&S Heating, Highland, NY
Gay's Fuel Service, Inc, Bellows Falls, VT
Gibson County Utility District
Great Plains Natural Gas
Guardian Fuel & Energy Systems, Westerly, RI
Hawaiian Electric
HeartShare
Hoffman Fuel, Bridgeport/Danbury, CT
HR Clough, Inc., Contoocook, NH
The Human Development Corporation of Metro St. Louis
Human Resources Council, District XII, Butte, MT
Hunterdon Help, Inc.
Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association
Indianapolis Power & Light Co.
Integrys Energy Group
Intermountain Gas Co
Interstate Gas & Oil, Sudbury, MA
Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living (JACIL)
JCP&L, A FirstEnergy Company
Jefferson Family Resource Center
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

The Jewish Federations of North America
JJ Skelton, Havertown/Mechanicsburg, PA
Kansas City Power & Light
Keansburg Resource Network
Kearsage Heating Oils, Warner, NH
Kirks Fuel, Pleasant Valley, PA
Knowles Financial Advisors
Kokomo Gas Company
Laclede Gas Company
Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
Lawes Oil Company, Shrewsbury, NJ
Leffler Energy, Mt Joy, PA
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Representing Low Income Families
Lewis Oil, Plainview, NY
Local Fuel, Fair Haven, VT
Long Branch Concordance
Love-Effron, Poughkeepsie, NY
Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri
Lykins Oil Company Milford, Ohio
Lyons Fuel, Yaphank, NY
Maine Energy Marketers Association
Maine Office of Public Advocate
Maine State Housing Authority
Marine Oil, Bayville, NY
Massachusetts Oilheat Council
Medway Oil, Medway, MA
Meenan Oil, Clinton, NJ
Meenan Oil, Wantagh, NY
Meenan Pennsylvania, Tullytown/Upper Darby, PA
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County
Michigan Consolidated Gas Company
Michigan Electric and Gas Association
Michigan Petroleum Association
Middleboro Gas and Electric
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Missouri Gas Energy
MOCEANS Center for Independent Living
Monmouth CARES
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co
Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs

Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Indian Tribe
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Oil Heating Service Managers
The National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of it's low income clients
National Fuel Funds Network
National Fuel Gas Company
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Grid
National Propane Gas Association
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New Age Fuel, Bronx, NY
The New England Fuel Institute
New Jersey Natural Gas
New Jersey SHARES, Inc.
New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations
New Utrecht Fuel Oil, Brooklyn, NY
New York Oil Heating Association, Inc.
Noonan Energy Corporation, Springfield, MA
Northeast Utilities
Northern Indiana Fuel & Light
Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Northwest Corner Fuel Bank of Sharon, CT
Office of People's Counsel
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks
Ohio Consumers' Counsel
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
Ohio Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire
Oil Heat Institute of Long Island
Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island
Operation: New View Community Action Agency
Orange and Rockland
Orange Housing Department
Owatonna Public Utilities
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Parker Oil, Bellows Falls, VT
Patriot Propane, Mt Joy, PA
Patterson Energy, Floral Park, NY
PECO

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Peterson's Oil Service, Worcester, MA
Petro Arlington, Arlington, VA
Petro Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
Petro Ct, Norwalk/New Milford/North Haven/Canton, CT
Petro Hicksville/Plainview/Yaphank, NY
Petro NJ, So. Plainfield/Lakewood/Kenvil/Princeton/Pennsauken, NJ
Petro NYC, Maspeth/Brooklyn, NY
Petro Pennsylvania, Southampton/Reading/Allentown, PA
Petro Propane, Yaphank, NY
Petro RI, Providence/Tiverton/Warwick/Woonsocket, RI
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Philadelphia Gas Commission
Philadelphia Gas Works
Piedmont Natural Gas
PNM Resources
Portland General Electric
PPL Electric Utilities
Premium Fuel, Montrose, NY
Pro Seniors
Propane Gas Association of New England
Public Service Enterprise Group
Puget Sound Energy
R.F. Ohl Fuel Oil, Lehigh, PA
RCF Fuel Hampton Bays, NY
Redbank Resource Network
Region Oil, Dover, NJ
Resources for Independent Living, Inc.
RetireSafe
Rutland Fuel Co., Rutland, VT
Ryan Oil, Poughkeepsie, NY
Rye Fuel, Portsmouth, NH
Salvation Army National Headquarters
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Scott-Williams, Inc., Quincy, MA
Seedco
Seniors Assistance Center
Sheltering Arms Senior Services
Shepherd's Center of the Northland
Skylands Energy Service, Inc.; Raritan, NJ
Smalley Family Resource Center
Smith Brothers, Lakewood, NJ

Social Service Association
Somerset Community Action Program Inc.
Sources Community Network Services.
South Jersey Gas Company
Southampton Oil, / Hardy Plumbing, Southampton, NY
Southern California Gas Company
Southern Connecticut Gas Company
Southwest Gas Corporation
Spanish American Social Cultural Association
St. Benedict SVDP, Holmdel, NJ
St. James Social Service Corporation
Sunshine Oil Company, Bristol, RI
Super Fuel Corp., Bronx, NY
Tanner Energy, Shippensburg, PA
TEAM Inc.
TECO Energy
The THAW Fund
Townsend Oil & Propane, Danvers, MA
Tri-County Community Action
Tucson Electric Power Company
UIL Holdings Corporation
Union for Reform Judaism
Unisource Energy Services
United Illuminating Company
United Progress
Urban League of Morris County
Ute Indian Tribe
Valley Energy, Inc.
Vectren Corporation
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association
Virginia Natural Gas
Washington Gas
Weyant Oil Svs., Oceanside, NY
Whitehouse Fuels, Burlington, VT
Wilcox Fuel Inc., Westbrook, CT
Willingboro Conference of St. Vincent de Paul
Wisconsin Energy Corporation
Xcel Energy
York CNGA