



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

March 17, 2011

To: The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi


We write to again urge you to support full funding of \$5.1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in the continuing resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and in the FY 2012 budget. LIHEAP is a critical program which provides federal funding to help consumers who struggle with the costs of home heating during times of extreme weather. For the past two years, Congress has funded LIHEAP at the fully authorized level of \$5.1 billion. Even at the \$5.1 billion funding level, it is only enough to assist 1 in 5 eligible Americans.


Recently the House Appropriations Committee announced a list of funding cuts for the next continuing resolution which will fund the government for the remaining seven months of this current fiscal year. The cuts include a reduction of \$400 million for LIHEAP contingency funds. Further, the Obama Administration announced its FY 2012 budget, which included a cut of \$2.5 billion to LIHEAP funding. A cut of this magnitude would result in over 3 million households to go without LIHEAP assistance at the national level. In Pennsylvania, that would mean that approximately 256,000 households would not have access to LIHEAP assistance.


We understand that tough decisions need to be made; however, we are extremely concerned that these proposed cuts come at the expense of the most vulnerable. In Pennsylvania, more than 75% of LIHEAP assistance goes to households with children under the age of five, elderly, or disabled persons. Failing to provide basic energy assistance for our low-income families, the millions of Americans seeking work, and even some middle-income Americans who are now without employment could force them to make painful choices between heating their homes or paying for other necessities such as food, medicine and clothing.


We urge you to support the full funding of \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP in FY 2011 and FY 2012. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Robert F. Powelson  
Chairman

  
John F. Coleman  
Vice Chairman

  
Tyrone J. Christy  
Commissioner

  
Wayne E. Gardner  
Commissioner

  
James H. Cawley  
Commissioner



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P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

March 17, 2011

To: The Honorable Joseph Scarnati  
President Pro Tem  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
Room 292 Main  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Samuel Smith  
Speaker  
House of Representatives of Pennsylvania  
PO Box 20266, 139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Dominic Pileggi  
Majority Leader  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
Room 350 Main  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Mike Turzai  
Majority Leader  
House of Representatives of Pennsylvania  
PO Box 202028, 110 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Scarnati, Senator Pileggi, Speaker Smith and Representative Turzai


We write to again urge you to support full funding of \$5.1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in the continuing resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and in the FY 2012 budget. LIHEAP is a critical program which provides federal funding to help consumers who struggle with the costs of home heating during times of extreme weather. For the past two years, Congress has funded LIHEAP at the fully authorized level of \$5.1 billion. Even at the \$5.1 billion funding level, it is only enough to assist 1 in 5 eligible Americans.

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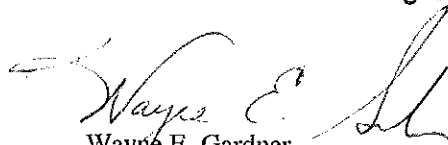
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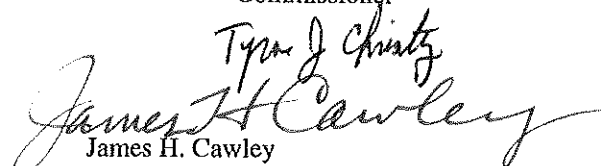
Sincerely,

  
Robert F. Powelson  
Chairman

  
John F. Coleman  
Vice Chairman

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Commissioner

  
James H. Cawley  
Commissioner