

August 4, 2008

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

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Minority
Leader
United States House of Representatives
Room 1011, Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Room H218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Room 1016, Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for adding \$3.12 billion in supplemental FY 08 funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The additional funds will be used to help low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and senior citizens living on fixed incomes pay arrearages from last winter's high cost of home heating, pay for summer cooling and begin preparing for next winter by pre-buying heating oil and propane.

Record high energy costs have resulted in an unprecedented number of households facing utility disconnection. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) estimates that more than 15.6 million households could face utility shutoffs because they can not pay their energy bill. Shutoff moratoria have run out in the states that have them. Many families are already experiencing this difficult situation and many more will face this prospect without additional LIHEAP funding.

The need for the increase is also in response to the severe decline in the program's purchasing power as a result of continued high energy prices: between FY 2003 and FY 2007, the purchasing power of the average LIHEAP grant for heating oil declined from 36.7 percent to 20.8 percent, natural gas from 58.2 percent to 37.6 percent, propane from 37.7 percent to 22.6 percent, and electricity from 50.1 percent to 37.1 percent. In fact, the outlook for all home energy sources natural gas, electric, propane and heating oil are at record levels and could go higher.

Millions of low-income families are burdened with paying high heating and cooling costs throughout the year. Low-income households spend on average 15 percent of their budget on home energy costs, while other households only spend roughly 3.4 percent of their annual budget on such costs. LIHEAP is a successful federal program that allows for these families to receive grants to help ease the burden of paying for record-high heating and cooling bills.

We fully support increasing funding for LIHEAP to the program's fully authorized level of \$5.1 billion. It will make a significant difference to the lives of some of the poorest families across the United States.

Sincerely,

National/Regional Organizations

Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance for Rural America
American Agriculture Movement
American Corn Growers Association
American Gas Association
American Public Gas Association
American Public Power Association
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Association of Energy Conservation Professionals
Campaign for Home Energy Assistance
Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Council of State Governments – Eastern Regional Conference
Edison Electric Institute
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged.
National Consumer Law Center
National Council of Jewish Women
National Energy Assistance Directors' Association
National Farmers Organization
National Fuel Funds Network
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Priorities Project
OMB Watch
One Economy Corporation
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Salvation Army
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Jewish Communities
United Way of America
Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

State/Local Groups

Alliant Energy Corporation
Ameren Services
Arizona Investment Council
Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association, Inc.
Arkansas Energy Network
Arkansas Public Service Commission
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now - Florida chapter
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
AGL Resources
Atlantic City Electric
Atmos Energy
Avoyelles Progress Action Committee
Bay State Gas
Bay Aging
Bear River Association of Governments
Black Hills Energy
Black Hills Power
Borough of Olyphant
Bossier Office of Community Services.
Central Arkansas Development Council -Arkadelphia Senior Center
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership
Cape Cod Council of Churches
Cascade Natural Gas Company
Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County
CenterPoint Energy
Central Arkansas Development Council
Central Florida Community Action Agency.
Central Susquehanna Opportunities
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Central Vermont Community Action Council
Central Vermont Community Land Trust
Central Vermont Public Service
Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power
Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City of Berkeley, California
City of Fountain Colorado
City of New York Department for the Aging
City of New York Department for Youth and Community Development
City of Seattle - Office of Housing
City of Virginia Minnesota, Department of Public Utilities
Cleco Corporation
CMS Energy
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Columbia Gas
Commission on Economic Opportunity

Community Action of Oregon
Community Action Agency Northwest Alabama
Community Action Agency of Butte County
Community Action Agency of Siouxland
Community Action Council of Portage County
Community Action Kentucky
Community Action of Greater Indianapolis
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Action Team of Oregon
Community Connection of Northeast Oregon
Community Legal Services of Pennsylvania
Community Power Network of New York State
Community Progress Council of Pennsylvania
Community Services of Texas
Connecticut Legal Services
Connecticut Light and Power
Conservation Services Group
Constellation Energy
Consolidated Edison, Inc.
Crowley's Ridge Development Council
Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Community Action Agency
Daniel Boone Community Action Agency
Delaware Public Service Commission
Delmarva Power
Dollar Energy Fund
Dominion
DTE Energy
Duke Energy
East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging
East Central Energy
East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.
East Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County
Energy Federation Incorporate
Empire District Electric
Empire Electric Association
Energy CENTS Coalition (Minnesota)
Energy East Corporation
Energy Outreach Colorado
Entergy Corporation
Essential Energy (Pennsylvania)
Falls City Utilities
Falmouth Housing Authority
Falmouth Human Services
Falmouth Service Center
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
Five Star Energy Corporation
Flathead County Agency on Aging

Florida Association for Community Action
Florida Energy Affordability Coalition
Florida Municipal Electric Association
Florida Power & Light Company
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Gallia-Meigs Community Action Agency
Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency
Great Plains Natural Gas
Greenwood Utilities
Groton Utilities
Harcatus Family Support Center
Homeowners Rehab Inc.
Hopelink (WA)
Housing Resources of Columbia County
Humanitarian Enterprises of Lincoln Parish
Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies
Indiana Gas Company
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Insulation Technology Corporation
Iowa Community Action Association
Jackson County Florida
Jacksonville Electric Authority
Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton & Franklin Counties
Jefferson County Community Action Council
Jefferson Parish Community Action Programs
Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc.
Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.
Kansas City, Missouri Weatherization Program
Laclede Gas Company
Lynn Economic Opportunity (Massachusetts)
Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships
Madison Gas and Electric Company
Maine Community Action Association
Manilla Municipal Utilities
Maryland Energy Conservation Inc.
Maryland Office of People's Counsel
Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance
Massachusetts Energy Directors' Association
Merced County Community Action Agency
Michigan County Social Services Association
Minnesota Utility Investors
Minnesota Valley Action Council
Mobile Community Action, Inc
Montana-Dakota Utilities Company
Nashville Gas
National Grid
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing
New Jersey SHARES

New York State Public Service Commission
Nicor Gas
Northern Indiana Public Service Company
Norris Electric Cooperative
Northcentral Arkansas Development Council
Northern Tier Community Action
Northwest Montana Human Resources
NorthWestern Energy
NW Energy Coalition
NW Natural Gas
Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
Ohio Farmers Union
Ohio Federal Budget Coalition
Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington
Oregon Housing & Community Services
Otter Tail Power Co.
Pacific Gas & Electric
Paducah Power System
PECO
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force
People's Power & Light
Pepco
Phi-Delmarva Gas
Piedmont Natural Gas
PNM Resources
Portland General Electric
PPL Corporation
Progress Energy Florida
PSE&G
Public Justice Center (Maryland)
Public Service of New Hampshire
Region IX Community Action Association
RGC Resources
Rockingham Area Community Land Trust
Salt Lake Community Action Program
San Diego Gas & Electric
San Juan NHS Corp.
Self-Help Home Improvement Project (CA)
Shelby Energy Cooperative
Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Archdiocese of Detroit
Solair Energy.
South Central Community Action Program
South Plains Community Action

Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Southern Bancorp
Southern California Gas
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company
Southwest Gas Corporation
St. Charles Parish, Department of Community Services
Sun Power
Tampa Electric Company
The Breathing Association (Ohio)
The Human Development Corporation (Missouri)
The Power to Care, Southern Good Faith Fund
Salvation Army - Florida
Salvation Army of Michigan
Tioga Opportunities
Town of Langford
Truro Council on Aging
TXU Energy
Umpqua Community Action Network
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Valley Interfaith Project
Universal Housing Development Corporation (Arkansas)
Utility Emergency Services Fund (Pennsylvania)
Utility Shareholders of North Dakota
Utility Shareholders of South Dakota
Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio
Venture
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
Vermont Legal Aid
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Virginia Community Action Partnership
Washington Gas
Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.
Western Massachusetts Electric Company
Westmoreland County Weatherization Program
Wisconsin Energy Corporation
Yankee Gas
Yarmouth Division of Senior Services