

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget proposal by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), more than 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled, and 20 percent of households contain at least one veteran. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

We understand the ongoing discretionary budget challenges. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for LIHEAP has declined more than 30 percent in recent years. Moreover, the number of households eligible for assistance continues to exceed available funding. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 17.7 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2014, from 8.1 million to 6.6 million. About 1.5 million poor households have lost access to critical LIHEAP assistance and struggle to pay for the basic necessity of home energy in addition to other essentials like food and medicine.

Funding has declined by almost \$1.7 billion since FY 2010, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by about \$95 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$424 in FY 2014. The average LIHEAP grant is estimated to cover less than half of the average home heating costs for a household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2016 budget request, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program within your FY 2016 budget and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

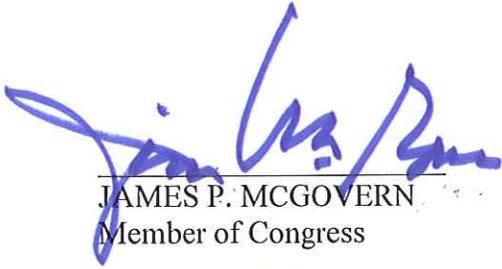
Sincerely,



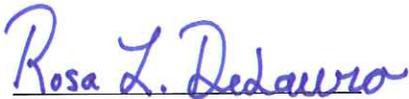
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



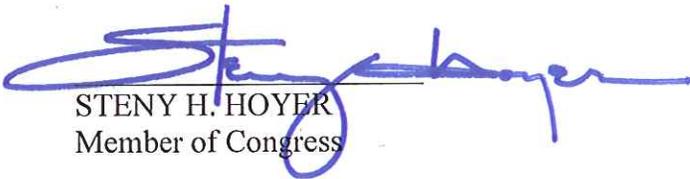
PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress


CHRIS GIBSON
Member of Congress


ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

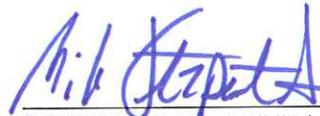

GENE GREEN
Member of Congress


STENY H. HOYER
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

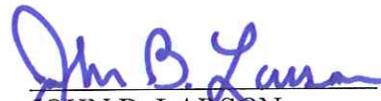

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress


MICHAEL G. GRIMM
Member of Congress

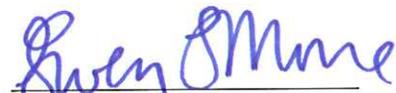

LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress


LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress


RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress


PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress

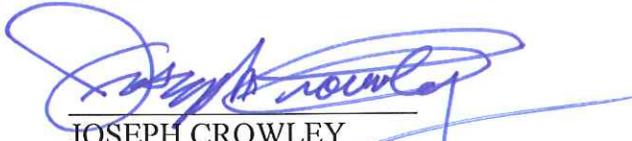

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON
Member of Congress



RICHARD L. HANNA
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



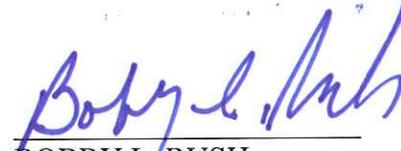
LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



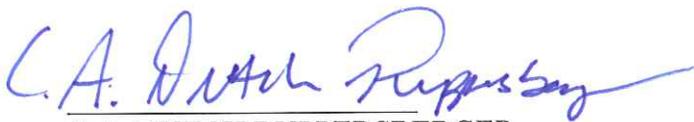
BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress



JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



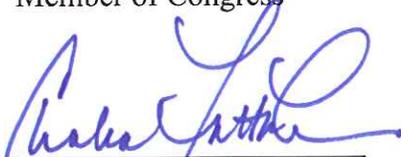
ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



CHAKA FATTAH
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

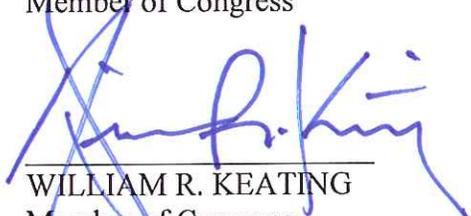

MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress


HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress


TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

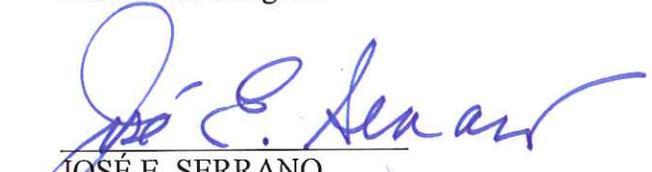

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress


BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress

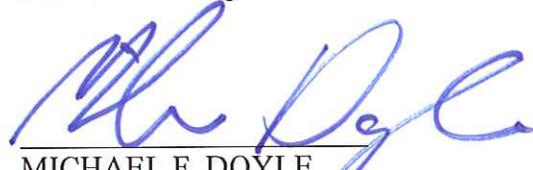

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress


ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress


PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
Member of Congress


JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


MICHAEL F. DOYLE
Member of Congress


ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

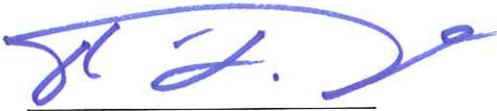

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



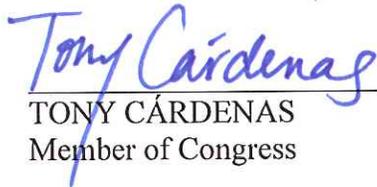
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



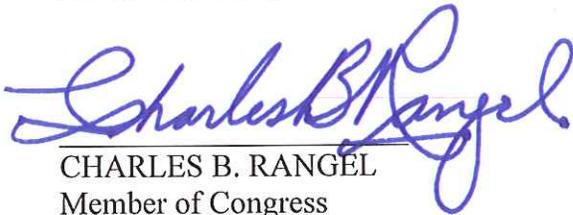
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



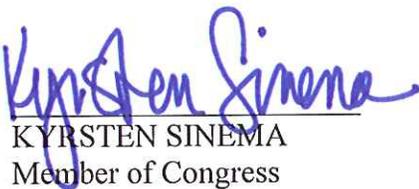
PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



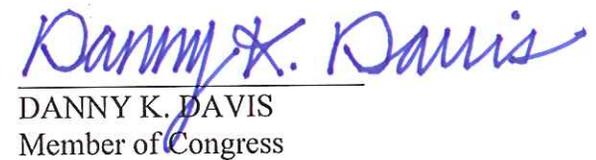
CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress



KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



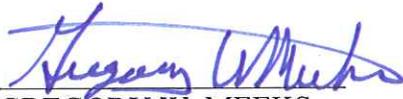
MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



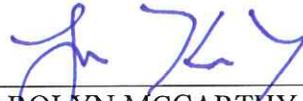
ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress



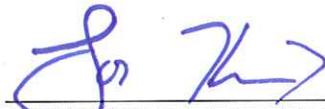
NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



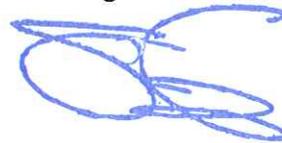
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



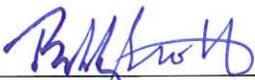
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



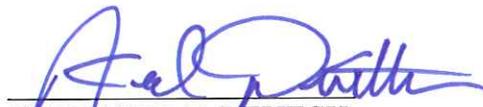
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



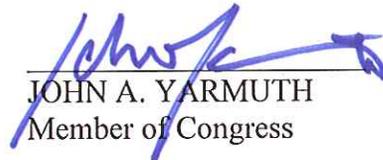
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress


JOHN CONYERS JR.
Member of Congress

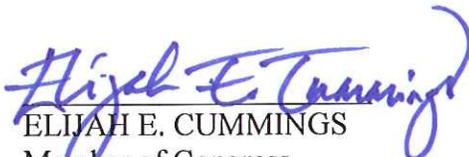

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY J. WALZ
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress


MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress


BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

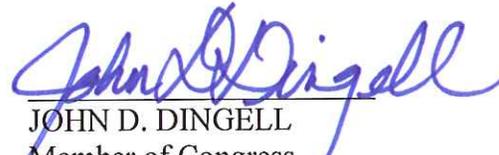

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress


JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

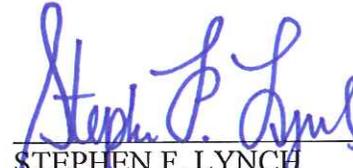

TERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress


DAN BENISHEK
Member of Congress


JOHN D. DINGELL
Member of Congress


JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress

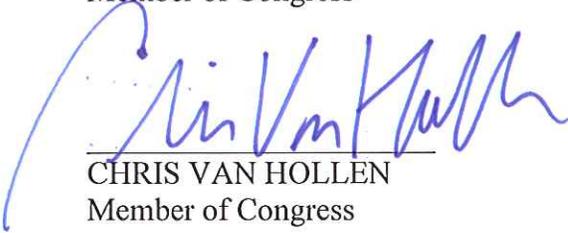

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



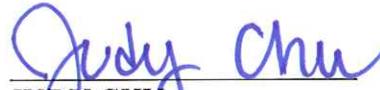
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



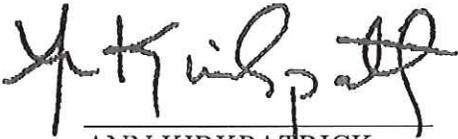
GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



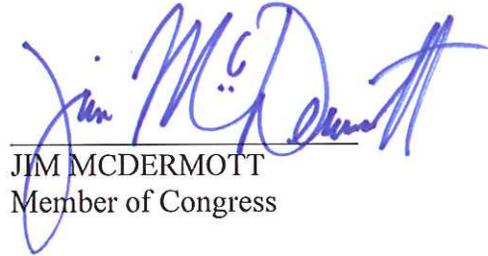
ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress



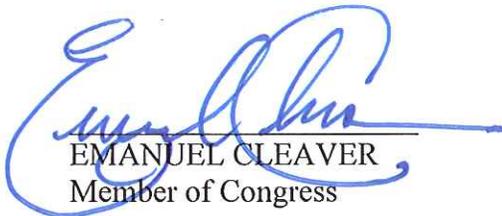
JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



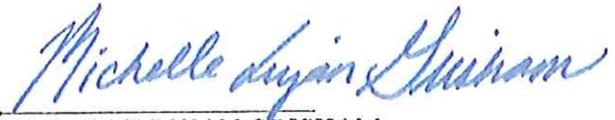
EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



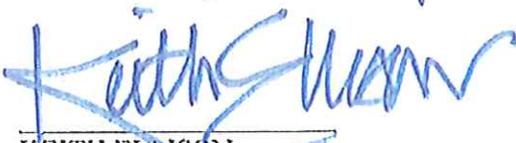
FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



BEN RAY LUJAN
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



JOHN DELANEY
Member of Congress



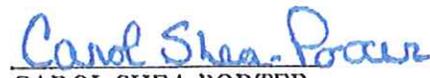
TOM MARINO
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL
Member of Congress