

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget proposal. As you know, LIHEAP is the primary federal program that helps low-income households, veterans, and seniors pay their energy bills during both the cold winter and hot summer months. As increasing energy costs account for a growing portion of the household budget for millions of Americans, we encourage you to include in your FY14 request a minimum of \$4.7 billion for this critical program upon which so many Americans rely.

According to a recent Energy Information Administration (EIA) report, household expenditures this winter for heating oil and natural gas are projected to increase by 19 percent and 15 percent, respectively. While these increases affect middle-income households, it disproportionately burdens low-income households, many of which are seniors and on fixed-incomes. Moreover, with Social Security benefits increasing by only 1.7 percent this year, or an average of \$19 per month, many elderly Americans will have to choose between heating and eating this winter.

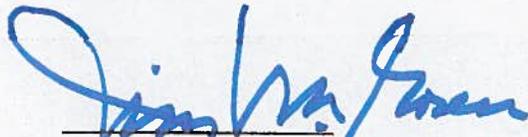
As supporters of the LIHEAP program, we acknowledge the difficult fiscal challenges we face as a nation. However, we are deeply concerned that while funding for the program has declined by 32 percent since 2010 to \$3.47 billion in 2012, the demand for the program continues to exceed those receiving assistance. And for those families fortunate to receive assistance, the amount provided has dropped in the face of higher heating costs. Accordingly, we urge you to restore LIHEAP funding to its FY2011 level of \$4.7 billion.

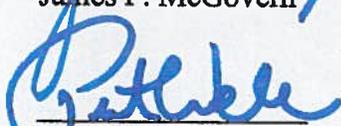
Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you to address this important priority.

Sincerely,

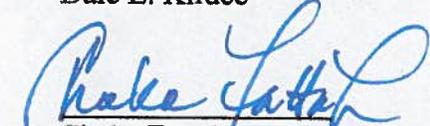

Edward J. Markey

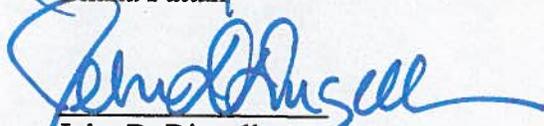

Peter T. King


James P. McGovern

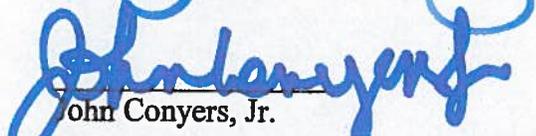

Peter Welch

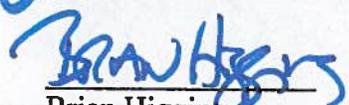

Dale E. Kildee


Chaka Fattah

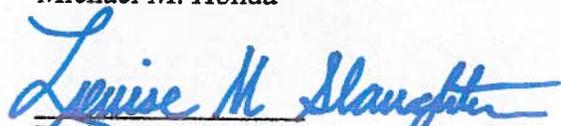

John D. Dingell


Elijah E. Cummings


John Conyers, Jr.

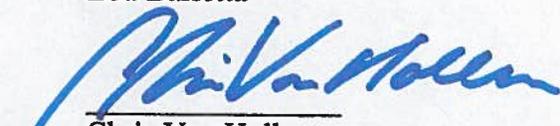

Brian Higgins


Michael M. Honda


Louise M. Slaughter

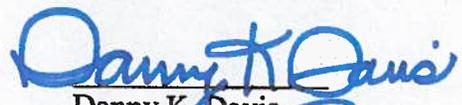

Jim Gerlach

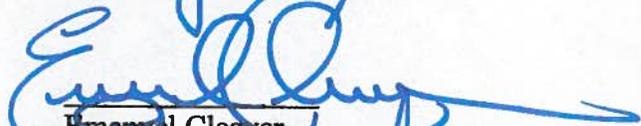

Lou Barletta

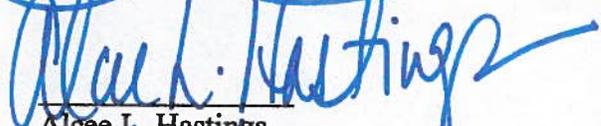

Chris Van Hollen


Michael G. Fitzpatrick


Rosa L. DeLauro


Danny K. Davis


Emanuel Cleaver


Alcee L. Hastings

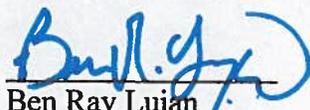

Maurice D. Hinchey

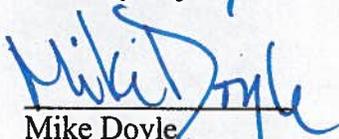

Christopher S. Murphy


Donald Payne, Jr.

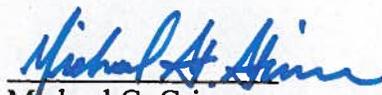

David N. Cicilline

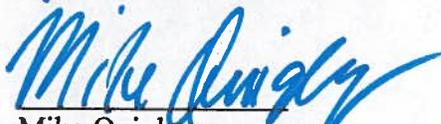

Timothy H. Bishop


Ben Ray Lujan

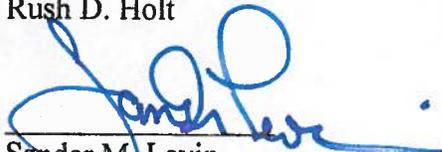

Mike Doyle


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan


Michael G. Grimm


Mike Quigley


Rush D. Holt


Sander M. Levin


James R. Langevin


Robert A. Brady

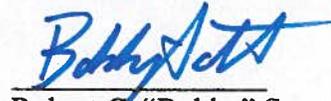

William R. Keating


John Lewis


John A. Varmuth

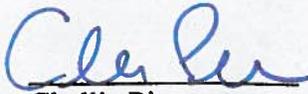

Suzanne Bonamici


Earl Blumenauer

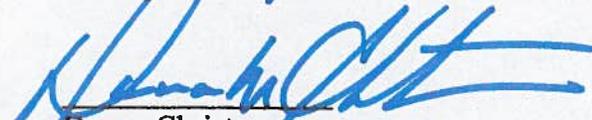

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Allyson Y. Schwartz

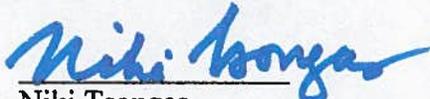

Gwen Moore


Chellie Pingree

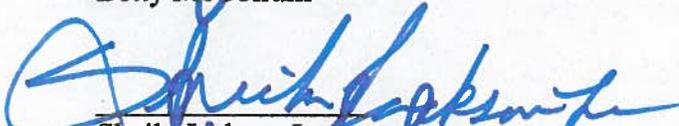

Tim Ryan


Donna Christensen


Mike Kelly


Niki Tsongas

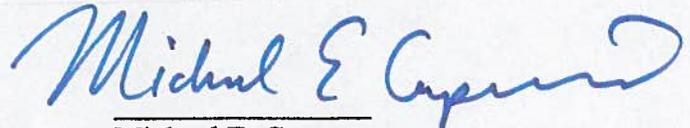

Betty McCollum

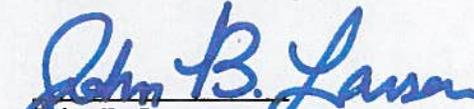

Sheila Jackson Lee

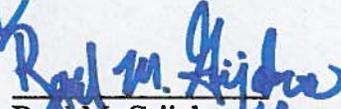

Stephen F. Lynch

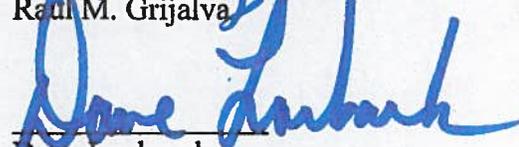

Eleanor Holmes Norton

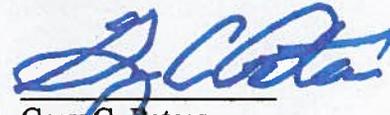

Eliot L. Engel

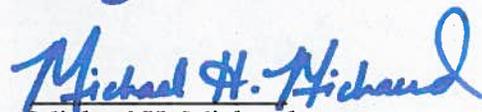

Michael E. Capuano


John B. Larson

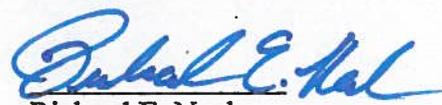

Raul M. Grijalva


Dave Loebsack

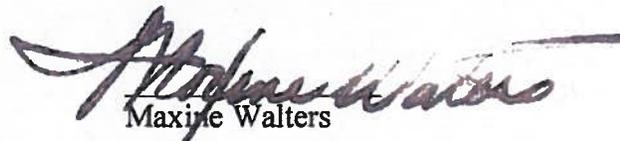

Gary C. Peters

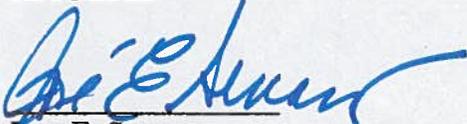

Michael H. Michaud

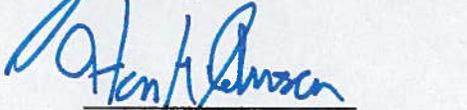

Corrine Brown


Richard E. Neal


John W. Olver


Maxine Walters

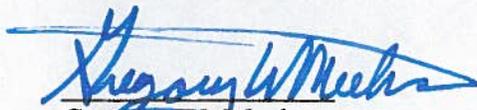

Jose E. Serrano

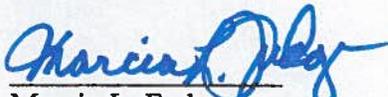

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.


Donna Edwards


Bobby L. Rush

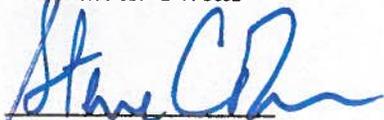

Nick J. Rahall II

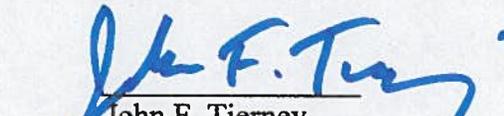

Gregory W. Meeks


Marcia L. Fudge


Charles B. Rangel

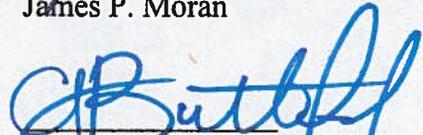

William L. Owens

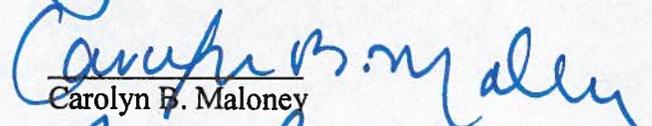

Steve Cohen

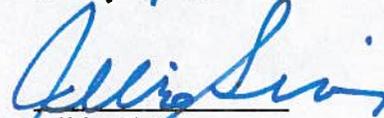

John F. Tierney

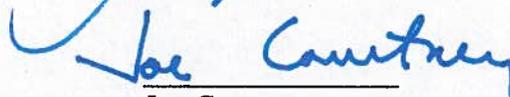

Keith Ellison


James P. Moran


G. K. Butterfield

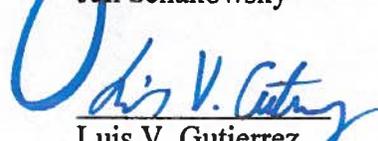

Carolyn B. Maloney


Albio Sires


Joe Courtney


Steven C. LaTourette


Jan Schakowsky


Luis V. Gutierrez

Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay

Frank A. LoBiondo
Frank A. LoBiondo

Bennie G. Thompson
Bennie G. Thompson

Paul D. Tonko
Paul D. Tonko

Gene Green
Gene Green

Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns

Charles F. Bass
Charles F. Bass

Carolyn McCarthy
Carolyn McCarthy

Jason Altmire
Jason Altmire

David A. Curson
David A. Curson

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Steve Israel
Steve Israel

Ed Pastor
Ed Pastor

Todd Russell Platts
Todd Russell Platts

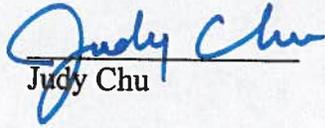
Hansen Clarke
Hansen Clarke

Barney Frank
Barney Frank

Ferrold Nadler
Ferrold Nadler

Diana L. DeGette
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Letter to President on LIHEAP
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Judy Chu