

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In light of record breaking and life threatening cold weather across the nation this winter, we are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 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. Sequestration has further exacerbated these funding challenges. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 17 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2013, from about 8.1 million to 6.7 million. Nearly 1.5 million vulnerable 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, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by more than \$100 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$406 in FY 2013. Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that average winter home heating costs will rise six percent to \$977 per household this winter. 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 2015 budget request, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program within your FY 2015 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.

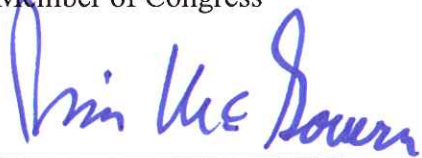
Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



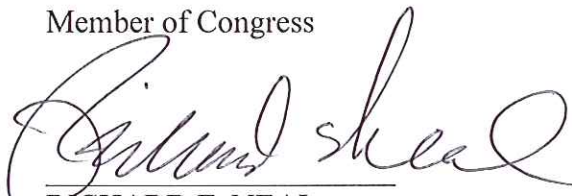
MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



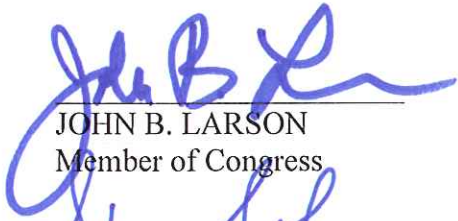
JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

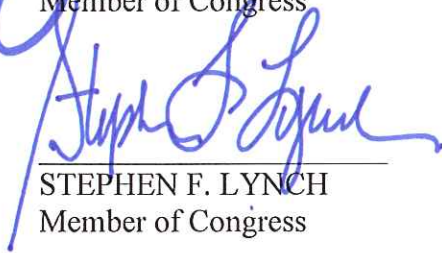


GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress



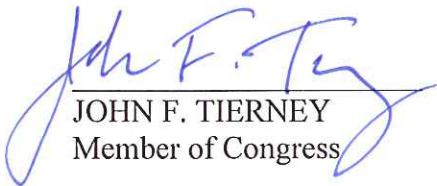
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress

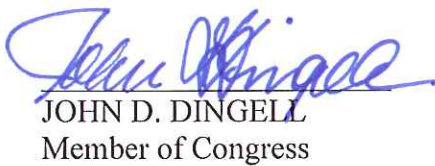

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

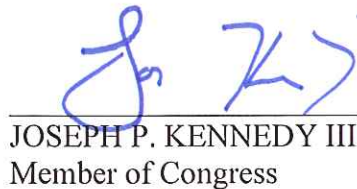

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

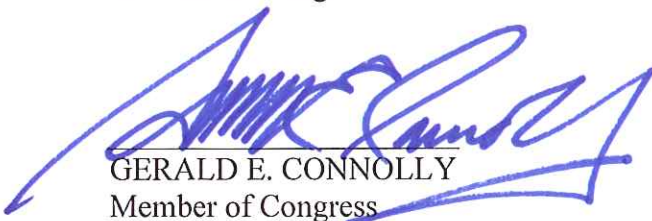

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


JOHN F. TIERNEY
Member of Congress


JOHN D. DINGELL
Member of Congress

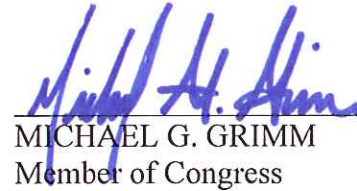

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress


ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress


DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress


MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



MICHAEL G. GRIMM
Member of Congress


DAN BENISHEK
Member of Congress


ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress


CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress


LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



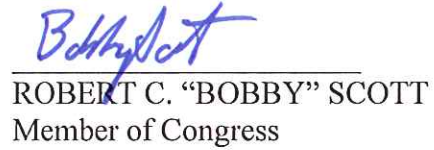
NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



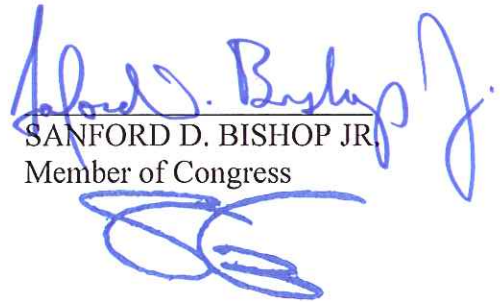
JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



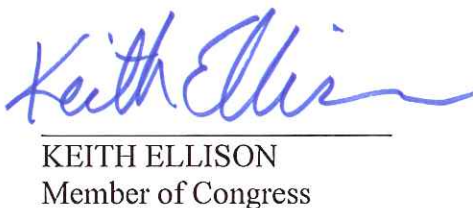
SANFORD D. BISHOP JR.
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark

KATHERINE M. CLARK
Member of Congress

Don Maffei

DANIEL B. MAFFEI
Member of Congress

Paul D Tonko

PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson

COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva

RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo

FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress

William R. Keating

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Richard L. Hanna

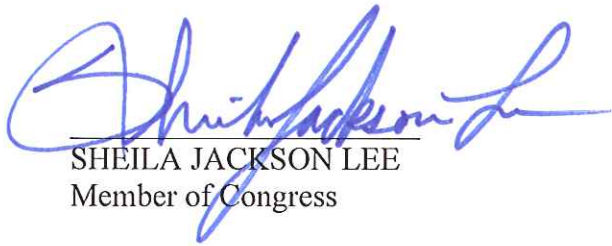
RICHARD L. HANNA
Member of Congress

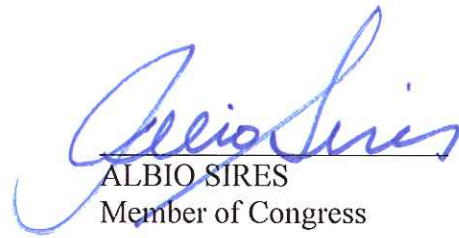
Steve Israel

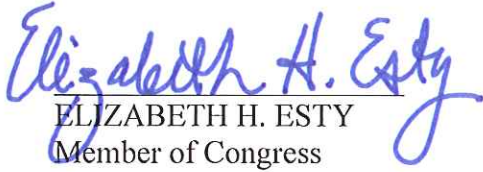
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

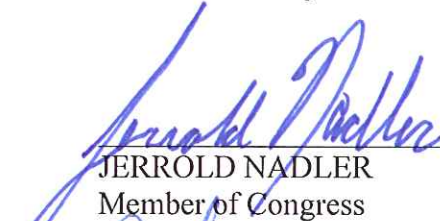

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

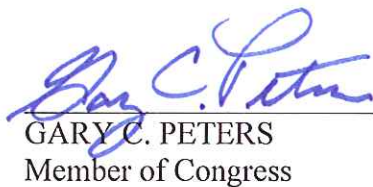

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress


ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress


DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress


YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress

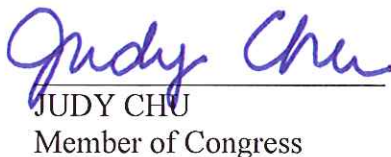

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress


BEN RAY LUJAN
Member of Congress

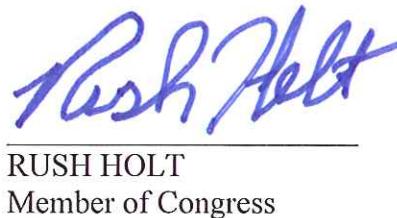

MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress


GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress


JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

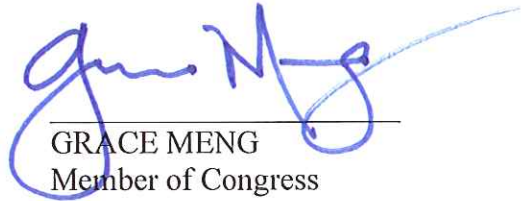

CHAKA FATTAH
Member of Congress


RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress


TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



RON BARBER
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



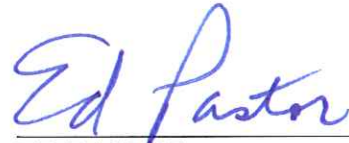
MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



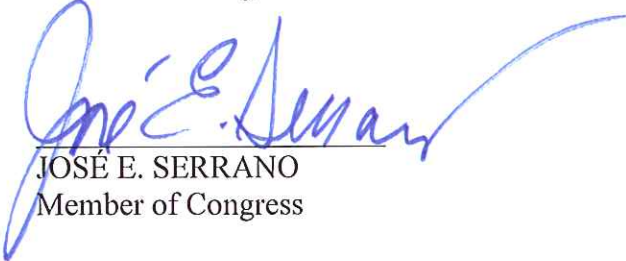
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



ED PASTOR
Member of Congress



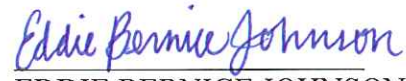
JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE JR.
Member of Congress



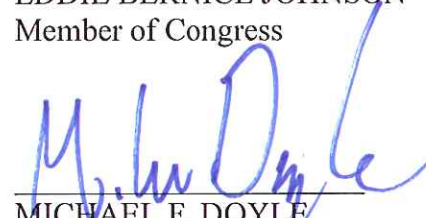
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR.
Member of Congress



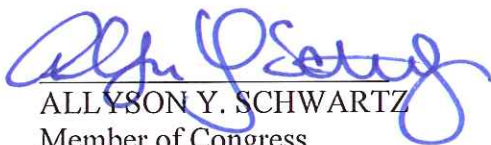
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



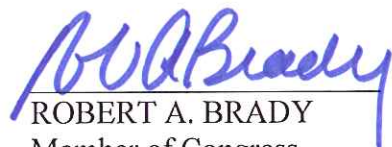
MICHAEL F. DOYLE
Member of Congress



ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress



NICK J. RAHALL II
Member of Congress



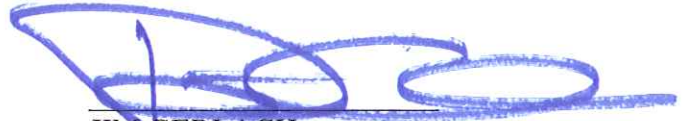
ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



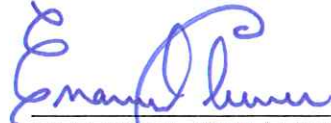
DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



JIM GERLACH
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



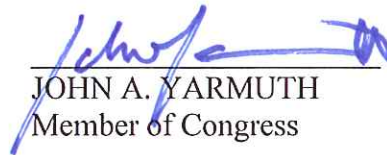
CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress



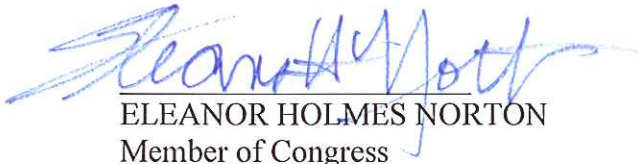
GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



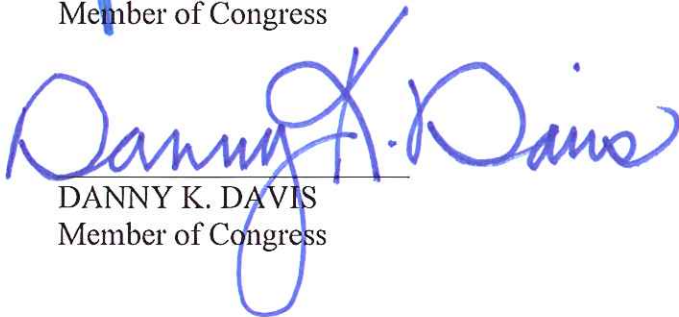
HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress


KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress

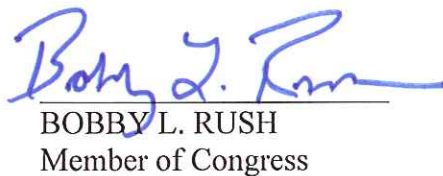

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress


DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress


LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress


WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress


JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress


BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

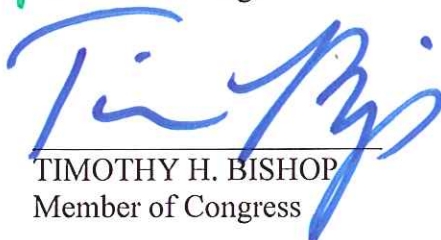

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

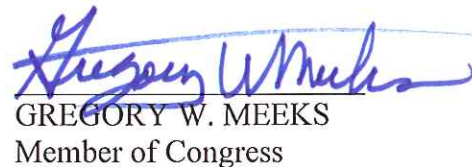

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress


WILLIAM L. OWENS
Member of Congress


AL GREEN
Member of Congress


DONALD M. PAYNE JR.
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress


GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress


BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress


TIMOTHY J. WALZ
Member of Congress