

(Insert name of organization) Seeks More Funds for LIHEAP

(insert name of organization) has written to the members of our Congressional delegation asking them to provide \$2.5 billion in supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for FY 2010.

Millions of Americans across the country and here, in (insert city or state) are facing extreme financial hardships. Many are struggling to pay the bills and keep food on the table.

This winter's harsh weather has only made the situation more difficult. Energy usage is up resulting in higher monthly utility bills. For many people energy assistance grants are vital to keeping their homes safe and livable.

In (insert state) the number of households seeking aid through LIHEAP has increased **(insert number of LIHEAP recipients and other LIHEAP data from the NEADA website <http://www.neada.org/communications/press/2010-02-22Table%201-LIHEAP10ProjServed.pdf>)** percent over last year from (use NEADA data) in 2008 to (use NEADA data) this winter and the numbers continue to rise. Currently LIHEAP is only serving about 18 percent of the households eligible for assistance.

More funds for LIHEAP are needed to allow this program to continue to provide meaningful assistance to those in need now and to help ease the energy burden that will grow during the summer heat.

We asked the delegation to take steps to immediately provide an additional \$2.5 billion in funding for LIHEAP.

Additionally, we asked the members of our delegation to support increasing LIHEAP appropriations from the President's request for \$3.3 billion to \$7.6 billion, the FY 2010 level.

The need is there. People are struggling. No American should have to choose between keeping their home livable or feeding their family. No senior citizen or person with a disability should have to choose between medication or utility bills.

We urged the Congress to move swiftly to address this crisis situation.