

RESOLUTION

Support for funding of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

WHEREAS, poverty, unemployment and the slow economic recovery remain persistent national problems and energy costs remain a burden on low-income households; and,

WHEREAS, low-income families pay about 17 percent of their income for energy, which is more than four times the percentage spent by the typical middle-income American family; and,

WHEREAS, only 17 percent of the households eligible for LIHEAP receive energy assistance grants; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP provides for the vital energy needs of low-income families and senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Congress reduced LIHEAP funding to \$4.7 billion for FY 2011 despite the dire state of the economy and record numbers of households receiving assistance in FY 2010;

WHEREAS, a funding level of \$5.1 represents the minimum amount through which the program can be effective; and

WHEREAS, unemployment remains at double digit levels in many states and at 9 percent nationally and 60 percent of LIHEAP recipients listed job loss as their primary reason for seeking aid;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the National Fuel Funds Network that, as a matter of humane, fair, and sound public policy, we urge Congress to provide annual funding for LIHEAP at a level of \$5.1 billion for fiscal year 2012, and an advance appropriation for fiscal year 2013 in the amount of \$5.1 billion. A request for this funding level will allow this important program to operate at its minimal effective level during a time of reduced government spending.

Adopted by members of the National Fuel Funds Network at the National Utility and Energy Affordability Conference, June 28, 2011, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



Thomas Stovall, Chairman,

National Fuel Funds Network

