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ACTION ALERT

Washington Action Day for LIHEAP

To: NFFN members and allies

February 1, 2007

Over 140 members and allies of the National Fuel Funds Network are fanning our over Capitol Hill today, asking Senators and Representatives to increase LIHEAP funding.

Please take a few moments to join them by calling or emailing your Congressional delegation with the following message.

Primary message:

- Continue level funding from FY 2006 -- \$3.2 billion -- for LIHEAP for FY 2007, which will keep LIHEAP a national program, by supporting any and all measures that increase FY 2007 funds from the \$2.2 billion in current law to \$3.2 billion.
- Specifically, offer and support amendments to increase LIHEAP funding in the supplemental funding bill (primarily for the Iraq war), as it comes to Congress in March.

Secondary message

- Support appropriations legislation which provides LIHEAP with \$5.1 billion for FY 2008. This level is LIHEAP's full authorization in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

All Senators and Representatives may be reached through the Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121. You can access their individual websites for emails at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. Please call and email today and tomorrow to add even more weight the message of our 140 in-person lobbyists today.

Please also use yourselves and distribute as widely as possible the site, www.supportliheap.org. This site delivers an email directly to one's two Senators and Representatives, based on the zip code entered. It takes perhaps 90 seconds to deliver a strong message for additional LIHEAP funding.

The Legislative Situation

In FY 2006, which ended on September 30, 2006, the total LIHEAP funding was \$3.2 billion (rounded) -- \$2.2 billion through the regular appropriations process and \$1 billion

from the Snowe amendment, which became law in March. The Snowe amendment allocated the additional one billion half and half as core funding and emergency contingency funds. The Administration committed all \$1 billion to the states by the end of March. The \$500 million core funding kicked in a different formula for the distribution to the states, which provided relatively greater portions to the warm weather states. **The net effect of the augmentation of funding in FY 2006 was to make LIHEAP a truly national program**, with far greater resources available to warm weather states. Still, it serves only some 15% of eligible households.

Last year, Congress included LIHEAP funding and over \$460 billion other dollars in a Continuing Resolution (CR) to run most of the Government through September 30, 2007. The Continuing Resolution expires on February 15. The new Democratic leadership has made a decision to live within the Republican budget caps, strip most earmarks and pass a new CR for the rest of the fiscal year. The House voted on the new CR on January 31. The bill continues LIHEAP funding at the same level as FY 2006, before the Snowe Amendment added \$1 billion in March, namely \$1.98 billion in regular funds and \$181.17 in emergency contingency funds (total=\$2.161 billion).

Probably in March, Congress will act on an FY 2007 supplemental funding bill for the Iraq war and some other measures. This bill could be a vehicle for increasing funds for LIHEAP for the present fiscal year. LIHEAP advocates seek a Congressional leader or leaders to include an additional \$1 billion for LIHEAP in the supplemental funding bill, which has not yet been introduced.

President presents his budget request for FY 2008 to Congress in early February. The budget request begins the regular budget cycle, in which LIHEAP advocates can press for the fully-authorized \$5.1 billion. The House and Senate will likely begin hearings in the spring.