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## ***ACTION ALERT***

To: Interested parties

February 17, 2005

### ***SENATE LETTER TO INCREASE LIHEAP FUNDING IN BUDGET RESOLUTION***

Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed (D-RI) have written their Senate colleagues requesting signatures on a letter to Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Budget Committee and Ranking Budget Committee Member Senator Kent Conrad to request that they support \$3 billion for LIHEAP funding in the FY 2006 budget resolution and that they provide for advance appropriation for the program for FY 2007.

If the Budget resolution includes the request, then the task of securing a similar increase in the final appropriation will be easier.

Please contact your Senators through [www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov) or by calling 202-224-3121. Remind them the LIHEAP needs \$3 billion simply to equal the purchasing power it had in 1982. Ask them to sign the Collins-Reed Dear Colleague letter that makes the request. To sign on, Senate staff members should contact Ms. Kris Sarri, Legislative Director, Senate Northeast Midwest Coalition, at 202-224-0606. The deadline to sign the letter is February 25.

For a copy of the Collins-Reed letter, click [here](#).

To strengthen your arguments in Congressional communications, please consider either or both of resources, both of which were handed out in Congressional visits during NFFN's 2005 Washington Action Day for LIHEAP:

- ▶ A fact sheet on LIHEAP developed by the Campaign for Home Energy Assistance, which <http://liheap.org/images/LIHEAPfactsheet05.pdf>
- ▶ The Energy Home Energy Affordability Gap analysis, developed by Fisher Sheehan & Colton, <http://www.fsconline.com/work/heag/heag.htm>. It quantifies the gap between “affordable” home energy bills and “actual” home energy bills on a state-by-state basis.