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ACTION ALERT

To: Interested Parties

May 5, 2005

SENATE LETTER TO INCREASE LIHEAP FUNDING IN FY 2006 APPROPRIATIONS

Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed are circulating a Dear Colleague letter requesting \$3 billion for LIHEAP in FY2006 and advanced funding for FY 2007. It is attached.

The following Senators have already signed the letter: Baucus, Bayh, Bingaman, Boxer, Collins, Corzine, Dayton, DeWine, Dodd, Dorgan, Jeffords, Leahy, Levin, Lieberman, Lincoln, Lugar, Murkowski, Obama, Pryor, Reed, Rockefeller and Stabenow.

Please contact your Senators through 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 May 11, 2005.

The recently-passed House Energy bill contained an authorization for LIHEAP for FY 2005-07 of \$5.1 billion. The Senate has yet to consider the Energy Bill, and the Energy Bill will authorize and but not appropriate funds.

To strengthen your arguments in Congressional communications, please consider either or both of the following resources, both of which were successfully used 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.