



National Fuel Funds Network

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ACTION ALERT

To: NFFN members and allies

August 12, 2006

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO ADVOCATE FOR ADDITIONAL LIHEAP FUNDING DURING THE AUGUST CONGRESSIONAL RECESS

The Legislative Situation:

- In March, Congress approved the Snowe Amendment and the President signed legislation providing \$1 billion additional for LIHEAP in FY 2006. At present, \$102 million in emergency contingency funds for FY 2006 remain at the President's disposal. The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, the American Gas Association, the National Fuel Funds Network and 43 Senators have requested that President Bush release the contingency funds to address needs prompted by the summer's heat wave.
- In June, the House Appropriations Committee passed the appropriation containing funds for LIHEAP in FY 2007. The bill includes \$1.930 billion for the state block grant formula fund and \$181 million for the contingency emergency fund. The bill awaits action on the House floor after the recess.
- In July, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee passed its version of the legislation. The Senate bill includes \$2.161 billion for LIHEAP, \$379 million more than the budget request. It contains \$181 million for emergency contingency funds. The legislation is now ready for Senate floor consideration.

Here is what you can do to make more federal energy assistance funds available to households who need energy aid.

1. Contact President Bush and ask that he release the remaining FY 2006 LIHEAP funds to help people with low income afford their increased home cooling costs due to the summer's heat. Include examples of the heat wave's effect in your community. Please copy NFFN.

Write: President George W. Bush

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500
Call: 202-456-1111
Fax: 202-456-2461
Email: comments@whitehouse.gov

2. Arrange home district visits with your Senators and Representatives. Explain the need for additional LIHEAP funds for FY 2007, which begins October 1, 2006. Provide local examples and data. Urge them to vote for any measures that would provide additional funding. If appropriate, bring LIHEAP clients to the meeting. Please let NFFN know of your legislators' responses.

3. Visit or write editors of your home town newspapers. Let them know that the President has the \$102 million to help with summer electric bills of people with low income. Convey the same message about FY 2007 as for your legislators.

4. Make plans now to attend NFFN's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP, February 1, 2007. A registration form is attached. Action Day is the national kick-off day for advocating for additional LIHEAP funds. Please join colleagues from across the US on this special day.

Attached is a very useful chart on state-by state LIHEAP funding levels prepared by the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association. It compares FY 2006 levels with levels proposed for FY 2007 in the House and Senate bills, calculates the difference, and shows the amount that would be provided by the "NEADA request." The NEADA request is for \$5.1 billion, identical to the amount requested in NFFN's request to the House Subcommittee (see www.nationalfuelfunds.org/2006_house_testimony.pdf).

Please remember that NFFN would appreciate reports on Congressional meetings and communications. Thank you.