



National Fuel Funds Network

1010 Vermont Ave., NW, #718

Washington, DC 20005

202 824-0638 (fax), 202 824-0660 (phone)

info@nationalfuelfunds.org www.nationalfuelfunds.org

January 22, 2007

Energy Safety Net Bulletin #103

Dear Member: There are less than two weeks before NFFN members and LIHEAP supporters come to the Nation's capital for the NFFN's Washington Action Day for LIHEAP on February 1.

Currently over 125 participants have registered for Washington Action Day for LIHEAP, and we expect this year's event to be the largest ever. If you would like to come to Washington for Action Day please visit our website – www.nationalfuelfunds.org --for registration information.

If you cannot come to Washington for Action Day, we urge you to participate from your hometown. Call your Congressional delegation on Feb. 1 and urge the members of your delegation to support full funding for LIHEAP. Hold a press conference to inform the local media about Action Day. Log on to www.supportliheap.org, and send a message to Congress.

Plan to be active on Feb.1 to show your support for LIHEAP.

Fuel Fund Activities

- The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) in Michigan has announced plans for two major fund raising events. THAW's Fourth Annual Winter Survival Radiothon for THAW, which will begin on Feb. 9, and its second annual Grand Rapids Winter Warmth Radiothon that will begin on Feb. 23.

For the Fourth Annual Winter Survival Radiothon, THAW once again is teaming with Detroit radio station WWJ Newsradio 950, which will air the 30-hour fund raising drive.

WWJ Newsradio 950 has set \$500,000 as the goal for the fund raising drive, and DTE Energy has announced that it would make a dollar for dollar match which could result in \$1 million going to energy assistance in Michigan.

WTRV-FM 100.5 The River will be THAW's partner for the Grand Rapids Winter Warmth Radiothon. The station will air the 21-hour fundraising campaign on Feb. 23 and 24.

For more details about both of the unique fundraisers visit THAW's website www.thanfund.org.

LIHEAP

- Rep. Dave Obey (WI) will chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over funding for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Obey is also chairman of the full Appropriations Committee. Other Democrats on the subcommittee are Rep. Nita M. Lowey (NY), Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (CT), Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (IL), Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (RI), Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA), Rep. Barbara Lee (CA), Rep. Tom Udall (NM), Rep. Michael Honda (CA), Rep. Betty McCollum (MN), and Rep. Tim Ryan (OH).

Rep. James T. Walsh (NY) will lead the Republicans on the subcommittee. Other Republicans on the subcommittee are Rep. Ralph Regula (OH), Rep. John E. Peterson (PA), Rep. Dave Weldon (FL), Rep. Michael K. Simpson (ID), Rep. Dennis R. Rehberg (MT) and Rep. Jerry Lewis (CA).

In the Senate, Tom Harkin (IA) will chair the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the other Democrats on the subcommittee are Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI), Sen. Herb Kohl (WI), Sen. Patty Murray (WA), Sen. Mary Landrieu (LA), Sen. Dick Durbin (MO), Sen. Jack Reed (RI) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (NJ).

Sen. Arlen Specter (PA) will be the ranking member of the subcommittee. The other Republican subcommittee members are Sen. Thad Cochran (MS), Sen. Judd Gregg (NH), Sen. Larry Craig (ID), Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX), Sen. Ted Stevens (AK) and Sen. Richard Shelby (AL).

Utility Actions

- The Kissimmee Utility Authority and its customers donated \$48,000 in 2006 to the utility's Good Neighbor Energy Fund, which provides assistance to families in need of help in paying monthly electric bills. The Kissimmee Utility Authority is Florida's sixth largest community owned utility.

- Progress Energy Florida reports that it raised more than \$438,000 in 2006 for its Energy Neighbor Fund. The funds came through voluntary contributions from customers and employees and a \$200,000 donation from the Progress Energy Foundation.

State and Local Government Actions

- In New York, the Nassau County Legislature has set aside \$60,000 in grant funds to supplement the county's energy assistance program. Annually, more than 4,000 county residents receive assistance through the program.
- The Montana legislature is expected to take up legislation that would provide \$2 million to supplement federal energy assistance funds. Gov. Brian Schweitzer proposal to provide the additional funding was included in the state's health care budget.
- Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt has urged the state legislature to approve a request to provide \$6.3 million to fully fund Utilicare, the state's program to assist vulnerable state residents with their winter utility bills. This is the second year in a row that the governor has asked for funds for the state assistance program. Before last year, the program had not been funded since 2001.

The state's Public Service Commission estimated that the average winter cost for state residents to heat their homes with natural gas would exceed \$800 before taxes and transportation charges.

Reports and Outlooks

- Warm weather in December has led the Energy Information Administration to revise its projections of heating fuel expenditures for this winter. According to the latest Short Term Energy Outlook, average household heating fuel expenditures are projected to be \$873 this winter compared to \$948 last winter. This would be the first winter since the winter of 2001-02 in which home heating fuel expenditures are expected to decline from the prior winter.

Federal Budget

- The Coalition on Human Needs is offering on-line training sessions on how the federal budget process works. The 90-minute sessions are designed to help participants better advocate for federally funded programs like LIHEAP. The sessions will be conducted on January 24 and February 1. For more information visit the Coalition's website – www.chn.org.