



National Fuel Funds Network

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Dear NFFN Member: Congress returns from its Easter recess next week. Completion of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which contains additional funding for LIHEAP for this fiscal year, will be at the top of its schedule.

The House and Senate have passed different versions of the legislation and a conference committee will meet to work out differences between the two bills. The House version of the bill provides \$400 million for LIHEAP and the Senate bill includes \$640 million for federal energy assistance.

President Bush has promised to veto the legislation because it contains provisions that set benchmarks and deadlines for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. However some form of the bill must eventually be passed because the measure provides funding for the war effort.

LIHEAP supporters are working hard to insure that additional LIHEAP funding is included in whatever version of the bill is finally signed by the President.

NFFN Member News

- Jan Marcason, an NFFN Board member and former executive director of the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, has been elected to the City Council of Kansas City, MO.

Utility Actions

- TXU Energy has announced that it will contribute \$5 million, in addition to donations from customers and employees, to provide bill payment assistance to local residents in Texas.

“Hardships like a job loss, medical illness, or death in the family can create unexpected financial difficulties for anyone. Our customers have consistently been there for us. We believe it is important that we be there for them, and our TXU Energy Aid program has been the hallmark of our commitment,” said Jim Burke, CEO of TXU Energy.

Fuel Fund News

Oregon HEAT has announced a recent \$150,000 grant from the Multnomah County Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The grant is to help Multnomah County residents in need, beginning in the fall of 2007.

Public Utilities Commission Actions

- KeySpan Energy Corp. has agreed to pay back \$2.3 million to its 80,000 New Hampshire customers that were overcharged over the last six years. The utility also agreed to set aside an extra \$200,000 in its budget next year for low-income assistance.

The agreement, which must be approved by the Public Utilities Commission, means that, including interest, KeySpan will refund \$3.1 million. The average customer is expected to receive about \$35.

The over billing occurred because the utility began using a different formula to calculate the amount of natural gas a customer uses.

- In Rhode Island, the George Wiley Center has asked the state’s Public Utilities Commission to extend the moratorium on utility cut-offs for two weeks. The moratorium is scheduled to end on April 15.

Henry Shelton, director of the Wiley Center, said “We are asking that the PUC extend the moratorium two more weeks, because we’re supposed to have several cold morning coming up...It would be great if Rhode Island could anticipate the danger and protect our children by extending the moratorium.”

A spokesman for the PUC said the commission could consider extending the cut-off ban but added that it had never done so in the past.

The Wiley Center is an independent poverty advocacy organization that is currently lobbying the state legislature for passage of legislation that would prohibit utility companies from discontinuing service to any household with a child under the age of six.

Meetings and Conferences

- The National Fuel Funds Network 23rd Annual Conference is less than eight weeks away, June 3-4 at the Nashville Airport Marriott. Please visit www.nationalfuelfunds.org for complete information on registering for the conference, submitting your nominations for NFFN's three prestigious awards, providing an item for the silent auction and applying for a Sister Pat Kelley Travel Scholarship (open to nonprofit members only).

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Applications for the NFFN Media Fair are due at close of business, Wednesday, April 18. This unique event is the national showcase for NFFN members' best work in the media field. To apply, visit http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/2007_media_fair_info.pdf.

- The Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) will conduct a series of six regional meetings in New York in May. The regional meetings will feature interactive sessions that will focus on emerging energy issues, weatherization tools and techniques, best practices, as well as an emphasis on networking.

The meetings will be held May 1, in Batavia; May 2 in Watertown; May 3 in Johnson City; May 9 in Queensbury; May 10 in Kingston; and May 15 in New York City.

More information about the meetings can be found at the LIFE website – www.lifenynews.org.