November 9, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

As winter approaches, we write to thank Congress for its longstanding bipartisan support of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to urge you to provide an additional $3 billion in funding, bringing total program funding to $7 billion, to help vulnerable households manage sharply rising energy costs.

Whether through an increase in the annual appropriation or a one-time emergency supplemental funding, these additional resources are urgently needed.

Across the country, low-income households are struggling with the cumulative impact of rising costs for groceries, housing, insurance, transportation, and other necessities. For families already living on tight budgets, higher energy bills add to an increasingly difficult financial burden. Seniors on fixed incomes, families with young children, and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable, often facing the difficult choice between maintaining safe temperatures in their homes and meeting other basic needs.

LIHEAP provides essential assistance to these households in every region of the country, helping families manage both winter heating and summer cooling costs. While energy needs vary by geography and season, the challenge is the same: ensuring that vulnerable Americans can afford the energy necessary to remain safe in their homes.

These pressures are particularly acute in New England, where cold winters, older housing, and a heavy reliance on delivered heating fuel leave families especially exposed to the dramatic price increases America is currently experiencing. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), heating oil prices are projected to increase by approximately 50 percent this winter. NEADA estimates that low-income households across the Northeast could face nearly $1.1 billion in additional heating oil costs alone.

At current funding levels, rising energy prices will erode the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance, forcing states to reduce benefits or serve fewer eligible households when the need is greatest. While our states are working to mitigate the immediate impact of rising energy costs on vulnerable households and continue to invest heavily in energy efficiency, weatherization, and other long-term solutions, these efforts cannot fully offset the immediate financial pressures facing families this winter.

We recognize the difficult budget decisions confronting Congress and deeply appreciate its longstanding bipartisan commitment to LIHEAP. Given the extraordinary pressures facing America's poorest households, we urge Congress to provide an additional $3 billion as soon as possible, through increased annual funding or an emergency supplemental appropriation. Timely action will help states sustain assistance and protect vulnerable households from the consequences of unaffordable home energy costs that are far beyond their control.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to helping American families meet their essential energy needs.

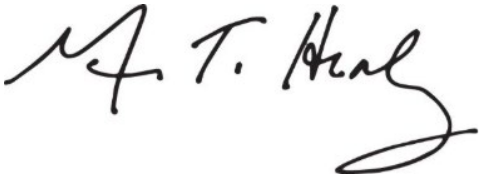
Sincerely,



Ned Lamont
Governor
State of Connecticut



Janet Mills
Governor
State of Maine



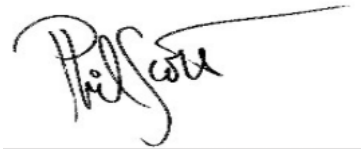
Maura Healey
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Kelly Ayotte
Governor
State of New Hampshire



Dan McKee
Governor
State of Rhode Island



Phil Scott
Governor
State of Vermont