

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 30th, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey:

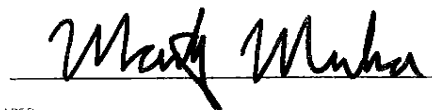
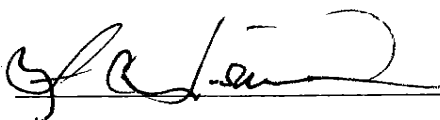
As you consider additional emergency supplemental funding in response to Hurricane Katrina, we urge you to give serious thought to the wider effects this catastrophe will have beyond the shores of the Gulf. Even prior to Katrina, our nation was feeling the squeeze of record high energy prices; with the massive disruption of this Hurricane, prices will continue to rise rapidly and create a looming crisis for our cold weather states. As a result, we urge you to include \$1.276 billion in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds in any additional relief packages. In the face of soaring energy costs, this additional funding will help maintain the program's 2004 purchasing power this winter. This funding is critical to prevent further fallout of Katrina's destruction and reduce the anxiety of a home heating crisis this winter.

Oil, natural gas, and propane prices were already at record levels prior to the damage Katrina inflicted on this critical energy region. As a result, we can expect to face the most expensive winter heating season in history across the country. The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently projected the following in its Short-term Energy Outlook: "The ranges for expected heating fuel expenditure increases this winter are 69 percent to 77 percent for natural gas in the Midwest; 17 percent to 18 percent for electricity in the South; 29 percent to 33 percent for heating oil in the Northeast; and 39 percent to 43 percent for propane in the Midwest." These increases are on top of double digit increases in 2004. As a result, states' LIHEAP programs are expecting a major increase in applications and need additional funding immediately to help ensure that low-income families and seniors can afford to heat their homes.

The newly enacted Energy Policy Act recognized the vastly reduced purchasing power of recent LIHEAP funding levels and increased the authorization from \$2 billion to \$5.1 billion. This request for \$1.276 billion in the emergency supplemental will at least keep the program level with the purchasing power of 2004.

Congress stands firm in our commitment to rebuild the Gulf communities destroyed by the storm. It is also our responsibility to address the wider ramifications of this natural disaster and avert another crisis down the road by providing additional LIHEAP emergency funds. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Bass

Louise M. Slaughter

Oak E. Wilde

Edward J. Markey

Phil Tanzi

Bill Del

J. Lee

Ernie L. Enger

Rich Bowler

Fred Yates

Donald Payne

Mr. [unclear]

Richard R. McNulty

J. Saxon

Bob Sant

Felipe E. Tommingo

Robert Menendez

Jim Moran

Harry L. Ackerman

Barry Kendrick

Scott Bohrt

Edward Shea

Gregory V. Costello

John [unclear]

John Angell

Shelby

John W. McHugh

Walter O. Sabo

Bob Enck

Charles Blange

Jim Oberstar

Jim V. Gutierrez

Rosa C. J. Lam

Carolyn McCarthy

Jim Langevin

John F. Tierney

Joe Schwan

Wm Lacy Clay

MI-08

Jane Camp

Pat Brady

Mike Ferguson

~~Jim~~ MUMFORD

Lu Loubser

Caroline S. Miller

Tom

Stephen Hule

Ed Strickland

John Dalata

Ed Kemerer

Robert E. ...

Pat King

Maureen ...

Bobby L. Rush

Tom ...

Tim Holden

Victor ...

Robert Emanuel

Dean ...

Phil Engle

Chris ...

Jan ...

Diana DeBette

Julie Carson

C.A. ...

Veron ...

Ed ...

Albert ...

Daniel Scott

Frederick ...

Ed Jones

Lane Evans

Brent Boss

Mike Dwyer

Rocky

Tim Ryan

Russ Holt

Melissa A. Hart

Billy McElvan

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Bob Bradley

Randy Kuhl

Stephanie Jones

Allyson Schwartz

Jim W. Brown

Michael B. Michael

Melissa J. Bean

John B. Ryan

John Schak

Jim McReath

Tom Allen

Timothy J.

Chris Smith

Todd R. Platts

Frank Pallone

Tom Murphy

Mark Udall

Kit Zeman

Stephan

Michael Fitzpatrick

1. Ackerman, Gary
2. Allen, Tom
3. Andrews, Robert
4. Bass, Charles
5. Bean, Melissa
6. Bishop, Tim
7. Blumenauer, Earl
8. Boehlert, Sherwood
9. Boucher, Rick
10. Bradley, Jeb
11. Brady, Robert
12. Brown, Sherrod
13. Camp, Dave
14. Carson, Julia
15. Clay, William Lacy
16. Costello, Jerry
17. Cummings, Elijah
18. DeFazio, Peter
19. DeGette, Diana
20. Delahunt, William
21. DeLauro, Rosa
22. Dingell, John
23. Doyle, Mike
24. Ehlers, Vern
25. Emanuel, Rahm
26. Engel, Eliot
27. English, Phil
28. Evans, Lane
29. Ferguson, Mike
30. Fitzpatrick, Michael
31. Fossella, Vito
32. Frank, Barney
33. Gerlach, Jim
34. Graves, Sam
35. Gutierrez, Luis
36. Hart, Melissa
37. Higgins, Brian
38. Hinchey, Maurice
39. Holden, Tim
40. Holt, Rush
41. Hoyer, Steny
42. Johnson, Nancy
43. Johnson, Timothy
44. Jones, Stephanie Tubbs
45. Kildee, Dale
46. King, Peter

47. Kuhl, Randy
48. Langevin, James
49. Larsen, Rick
50. Larson, John
51. LaTourette, Steven
52. Leach, Jim
53. Levin, Sander
54. LoBiondo, Frank
55. Lynch, Stephen
56. Markey, Edward
57. McCarthy, Carolyn
58. McCollum, Betty
59. McCotter, Thaddeus
60. McDermott, Jim
61. McGovern, James
62. McHugh, John
63. McNulty, Michael
64. Meehan, Martin
65. Menendez, Robert
66. Michaud, Mike
67. Miller, Candice
68. Moore Gwendolyn,
69. Moran, James
70. Murphy, Tim
71. Neal, Richard
72. Ney, Bob
73. Oberstar, James
74. Pallone, Frank
75. Payne, Donald
76. Peterson, Collin
77. Platts, Todd
78. Rangel, Charles
79. Rogers, Mike (MI)
80. Ruppertsberger, Dutch
81. Rush, Bobby
82. Ryan, Tim
83. Sabo, Martin
84. Sanders, Bernie
85. Saxton, Jim
86. Schakowsky, Janice
87. Schwartz, Allyson
88. Schwarz, Joe
89. Scott, David
90. Simmons, Rob
91. Skelton, Ike
92. Slaughter, Louise

- 93. Smith, Chris
- 94. Strickland, Ted
- 95. Stupak, Bart
- 96. Tierney, John
- 97. Towns, Edolphus
- 98. Udall, Mark
- 99. Upton, Fred
- 100. Van Hollen, Chris
- 101. Whitfield, Ed
- 102. Wynn, Albert