

Gov. Jennifer Granholm  
*Michigan*  
Gov. Tim Pawlenty  
*Minnesota*  
Gov. Rob Riley  
*Alabama*  
Gov. Sarah Palin  
*Alaska*  
Gov. Bill Ritter  
*Colorado*  
Gov. M. Jodi Rell  
*Connecticut*  
Gov. Ruth Ann Minner  
*Delaware*  
Gov. Sonny Perdue  
*Georgia*  
Gov. Rod Blagojevich  
*Illinois*  
Gov. Chet Culver  
*Iowa*  
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius  
*Kansas*  
Gov. Ernie Fletcher  
*Kentucky*  
Gov. Kathleen Blanco  
*Louisiana*  
Gov. John Baldacci  
*Maine*  
Gov. Deval Patrick  
*Massachusetts*  
Gov. Brian Schweitzer  
*Montana*  
Gov. Jim Gibbons  
*Nevada*  
Gov. Jon S. Corzine  
*New Jersey*  
Gov. Bill Richardson  
*New Mexico*  
Gov. Eliot Spitzer  
*New York*  
Gov. Mike Easley  
*North Carolina*  
Gov. Mike Hoeven  
*North Dakota*  
Gov. Ted Strickland  
*Ohio*  
Gov. Brad Henry  
*Oklahoma*  
Gov. Ted Kulongoski  
*Oregon*  
Gov. Edward Rendell  
*Pennsylvania*  
Gov. Donald Carcieri  
*Rhode Island*  
Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.  
*Utah*  
Gov. James Douglas  
*Vermont*  
Gov. Tim Kaine  
*Virginia*  
Gov. Chris Gregoire  
*Washington*  
Gov. Joe Manchin III  
*West Virginia*  
Gov. Jim Doyle  
*Wisconsin*  
Gov. Dave Freudenthal  
*Wyoming*  
Gov. Mike Rounds  
*South Dakota*

February 15, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative Boehner,

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to low-income households, with benefits targeting the elderly, disabled and families that often have to make the hard choices between paying for heating or cooling bills and food, medicine and other essential needs. As governors, we have worked over the years to help assure that our most vulnerable residents are not overwhelmed by the volatile nature of home energy costs. This has often meant significant state contributions to emergency relief funds or supplementing existing state-federal programs.

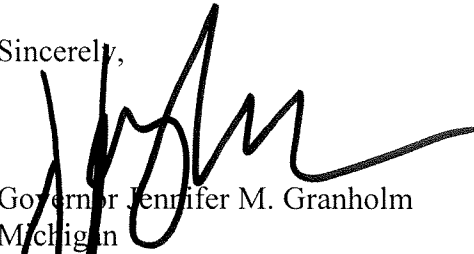
In 2006, we were grateful that Congress made a significant investment in LIHEAP, recognizing that soaring energy prices required additional funding for the program. While still well short of the authorized level of \$5.1 billion, the 2006 funding level of \$3.2 billion gave eligible citizens in all of our states the purchasing power needed to pay their heating or cooling bills.

Unfortunately, the Continuing Resolution for FY 2007 would decrease LIHEAP funding to \$2.16 billion while the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would further cut available funds for FY 2008 to \$1.78 billion. Neither of these funding levels will allow states to adequately address the needs of hundreds of thousands of households across the country that struggle every month to pay their heating and cooling bills. We urge you to use the 2006 funding level of \$3.2 billion as a base to build from in the future — not a one time emergency investment in energy assistance.

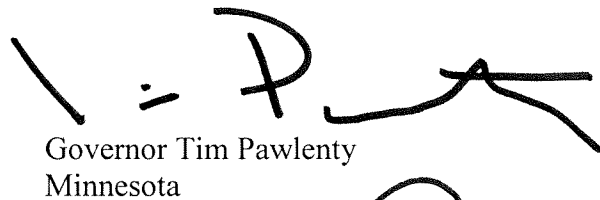
Should future funding opportunities arise in the current fiscal year we hope that you seriously consider supplementing the LIHEAP program with additional funds and as you consider the FY 2008 budget in the coming months, it is imperative that you make every effort to return LIHEAP funding to a baseline of at least \$3.2 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued commitment to assisting our neediest families. We hope that you will take this opportunity to actively support the LIHEAP program.

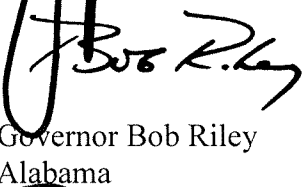
Sincerely,



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan



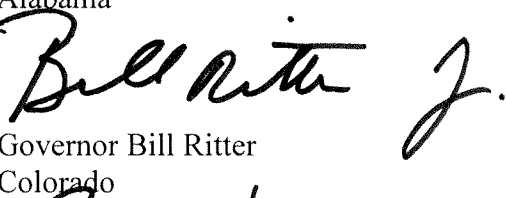
Governor Tim Pawlenty  
Minnesota



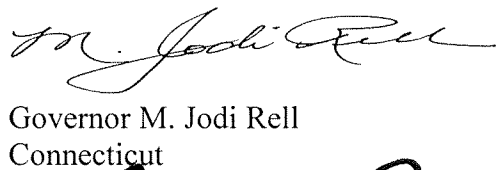
Governor Bob Riley  
Alabama



Governor Sarah Palin  
Alaska



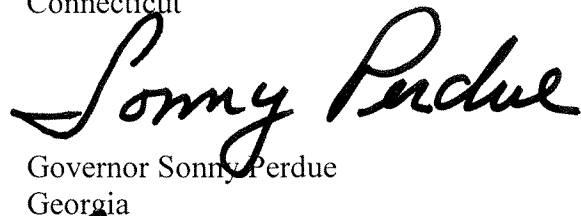
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Colorado



Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut



Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
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Governor Sonny Perdue  
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Governor Rod Blagojevich  
Illinois



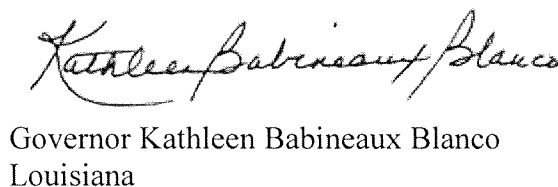
Governor Chet Culver  
Iowa




Governor Kathleen Sebelius  
Kansas



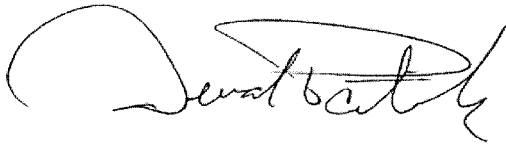
Governor Ernie Fletcher  
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Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Louisiana



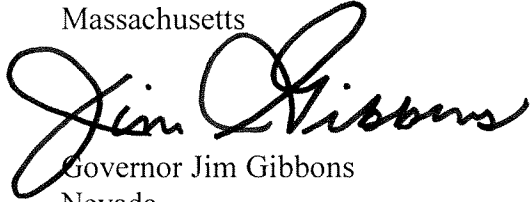
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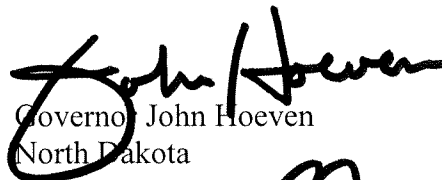
Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico



Governor Eliot Spitzer  
New York



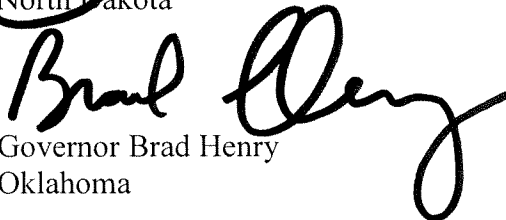
Governor Michael F. Easley  
North Carolina



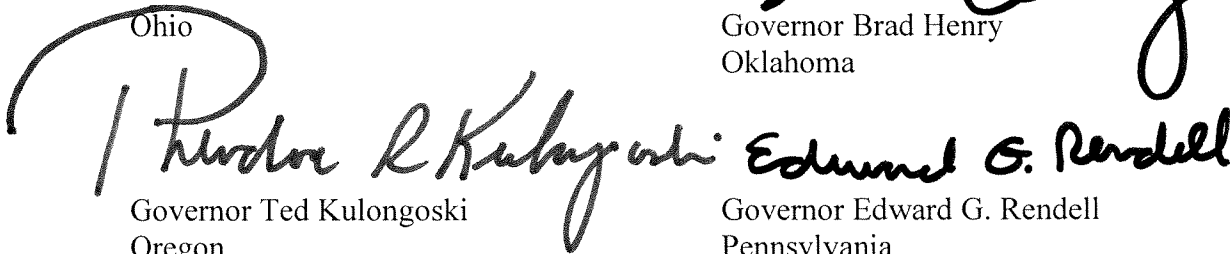
Governor John Hoeven  
North Dakota



Governor Ted Strickland  
Ohio



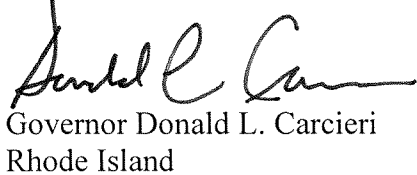
Governor Brad Henry  
Oklahoma



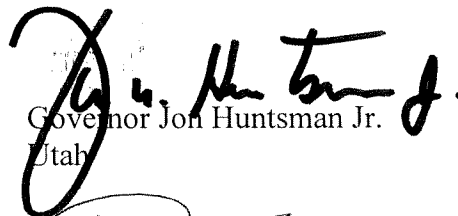
Governor Ted Kulongoski  
Oregon



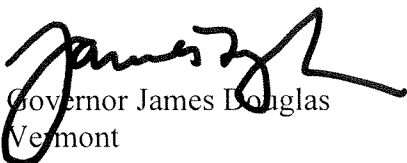
Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Pennsylvania



Governor Donald L. Carcieri  
Rhode Island



Governor Jon Huntsman Jr.  
Utah



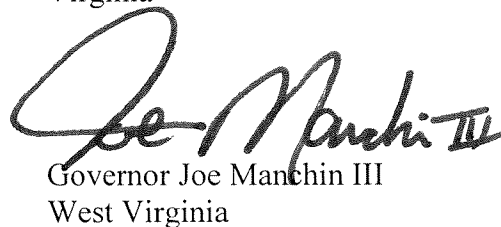
Governor James Douglas  
Vermont




Governor Tim Kane  
Virginia





Governor Chris Gregoire  
Washington



Governor Joe Manchin III  
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