



Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota
Chair

Edward G. Rendell
Governor of Pennsylvania
Vice Chair

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

November 1, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

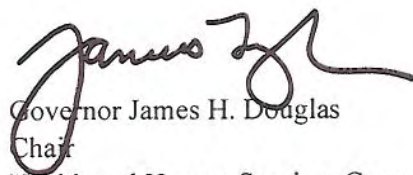
As Congress works to complete its FY 2008 appropriations bills, we ask that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) be funded at least at the House-passed level of \$2.66 billion.

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 ensure that our most vulnerable residents are not overwhelmed by expected significant increases in home energy costs.

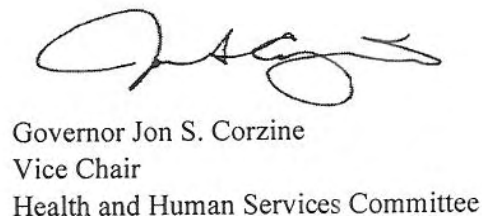
In FY 2007, Congress funded LIHEAP at approximately \$2.16 billion. While governors appreciate Congress' continued investment in the program, we also recognize that the FY 2007 spending was considerably less than the \$5.1 billion authorized for the program in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Increasing funds for LIHEAP will help states hold benefit levels steady and help eligible citizens obtain important heating and cooling services.

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

Sincerely,



Governor James H. Douglas
Chair
Health and Human Services Committee



Governor Jon S. Corzine
Vice Chair
Health and Human Services Committee