

Press Release
Winter Home Prices Projected to Reach Record Levels for All Fuels
State Energy Officials Call on Congress to Increase
Funding for Energy Assistance

Contact: Mark Wolfe 202-237-5199, Cell: 202-320-9046
National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA)
June 23, 2008

State energy officials today estimated that home heating costs for the 2008-09 winter heating costs will reach record levels and cause severe hardships for low and moderate income households. The average cost will total about \$1,114, 14.6% more than last year's total of \$972. The cost of home heating with heating oil is projected to reach \$2,593, natural gas \$978, propane \$1,967 and electricity \$875.

State energy officials called on Congress today to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$1 billion to help poor and working families cope with record high energy bills. The additional funding is included in the Senate version of the FY 08 Defense supplemental spending bill.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, "the additional funds will be used to increase benefits levels to help low income families pay off record arrearages from last winter and high cooling bills this summer. The funds will also allow states to provide funds to working families and the very poor who are struggling to pay their energy bills and generally are not eligible for program assistance."

Est. Change in Home Heating Costs (FY 05 –09)

Fiscal Year	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane	Electricity	All Fuels
2005	\$1,198	\$743	\$1,102	\$717	\$783
2006	\$1,430	\$945	\$1,281	\$782	\$945
2007	\$1,468	\$813	\$1,349	\$823	\$889
2008	\$1,962	\$858	\$1,670	\$842	\$972
2009	\$2,593	\$978	\$1,967	\$875	\$1,114
% Change 05-09	116.4%	31.6%	78.5%	22.0%	42.3%
% Change 07-08	33.7%	5.5%	23.8%	2.3%	9.3%
% Change 08-09	32.2%	14.0%	17.8%	3.9%	14.6%

Est. Average % of Home Heating Purchased with LIHEAP (FY 05- FY 09)

Fiscal Year	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane	Electricity	All Fuels
2005	29.1%	36.9%	27.2%	44.5%	44.5%
2006	32.4%	49.1%	36.2%	59.3%	49.1%
2007	21.6%	38.9%	23.5%	38.5%	35.6%
2008	18.3%	41.8%	21.5%	42.6%	36.9%
President 09	14.2%	32.6%	16.7%	33.2%	25.1%

Source: state reports, US Energy Information Administration.
 End