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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

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

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairmen Rogers and Rehberg, and Ranking Members Dicks and DeLauro:

As you know, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides a vital safety net for our nation's low-income households. The program was funded at \$3.47 billion in FY2012. While we appreciate this funding level, and the help it will offer almost 9 million households in 2012, we believe that greater funding is necessary to meet the needs of our constituents as heating oil costs remain high and economic hardship continues. We write to urge you to consider funding the LIHEAP program at its authorized level of \$5.1 billion in FY2013.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households, veterans and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding remains a lifeline to millions of Americans as the unemployment rate and energy costs remain high. LIHEAP helps to ensure that people do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. Moreover, the funds invested in LIHEAP help to stimulate the economy, generating \$1.13 in economic activity for every dollar in benefits paid, according to economists Mark Zandi and Alan S. Blinder.

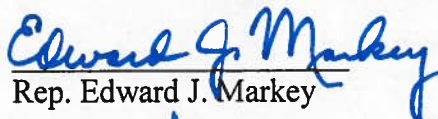
As a result of the economic downturn and already high energy prices, record numbers of families continue to turn to LIHEAP for assistance for the third year in a row. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), approximately 8.9 million families nationwide received LIHEAP heating assistance last winter, an increase of 16 percent from two years ago. But even at those levels, only about 20 percent of the families eligible for assistance received LIHEAP aid.

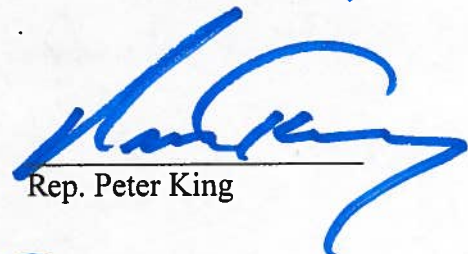
Furthermore, funding LIHEAP at \$3.47 billion has forced millions of Americans to receive significantly lower levels of support during these difficult times. The average national household grant for home energy assistance has been cut from \$417 in 2011 to \$308 this year, a cut of more than 26 percent.

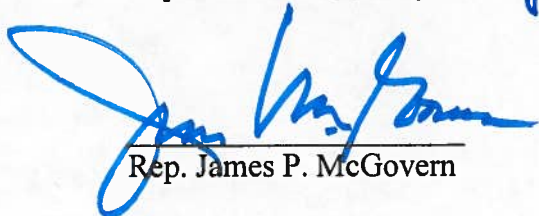
The U.S. Census recently reported that 46.2 million people lived in poverty in 2010, the largest number in the 52 year history of published poverty estimates. According to NEADA, the 8.9 million families to which LIHEAP provided vital energy assistance last year was an increase of 54 percent from 2008. Even more striking is that the number of households served that includes veterans increased by more than 150 percent during the same period. Overall, the number of veterans' households served by LIHEAP, which represents 20 percent of the total LIHEAP recipients, has increased from about 700,000 in FY2008 to 1.78 million in FY2011.

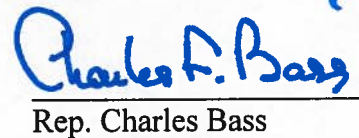
Continuing lower levels of funding for LIHEAP will have a devastating impact on millions of American families already suffering during the economic downturn. We urge the Appropriators to restore funding to this program's authorized level in the FY2013 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

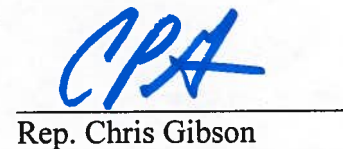
  
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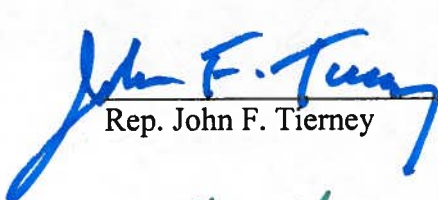
  
Rep. Peter King

  
Rep. James P. McGovern

  
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Rep. Michael Grimm

  
Rep. Gene Green

  
Rep. Frank Guinta

  
Rep. Marcia L. Fudge

  
Rep. Lou Barletta



Gary L. Ackerman  
Rep. Gary Ackerman

Rob Andrews  
Rep. Rob Andrews

Tammy Baldwin  
Rep. Tammy Baldwin

Timothy Bishop  
Rep. Timothy Bishop

Suzanne Bonamici  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici

Robert Brady  
Rep. Robert Brady

G.K. Butterfield  
Rep. G.K. Butterfield

Russ Carnahan  
Rep. Russ Carnahan

David W. Cicilline  
Rep. David Cicilline

John Conyers  
Rep. John Conyers

Danny Davis  
Rep. Danny Davis

Jason Altmire  
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Joe Baca  
Rep. Joe Baca

Shelley Berkley  
Rep. Shelley Berkley

Earl Blumenauer  
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Leonard L. Boswell  
Rep. Leonard Boswell

Bruce Braley  
Rep. Bruce Braley

Lois Capps  
Rep. Lois Capps

Judy Chu  
Rep. Judy Chu

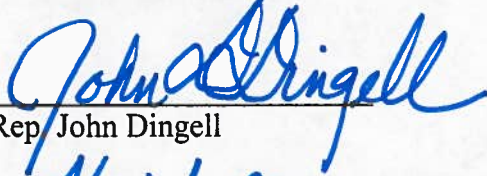
Yvette D. Clarke  
Rep. Yvette Clarke

Joseph Crowley  
Rep. Joseph Crowley

Peter DeFazio  
Rep. Peter DeFazio



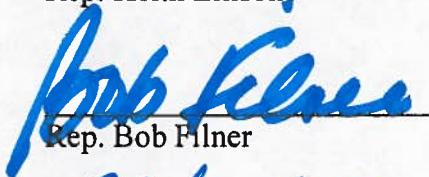
Rep. Diana DeGette



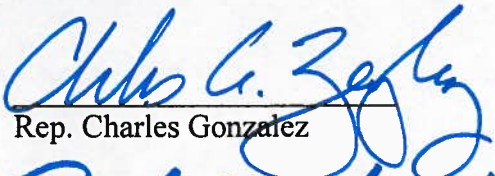
Rep. John Dingell



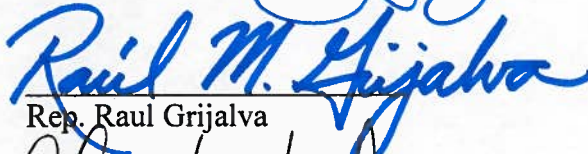
Rep. Keith Ellison



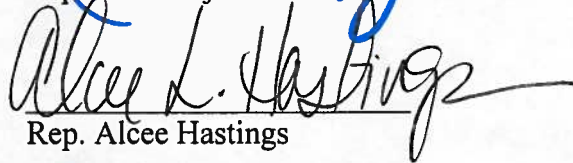
Rep. Bob Filner



Rep. Charles Gonzalez



Rep. Raul Grijalva



Rep. Alcee Hastings



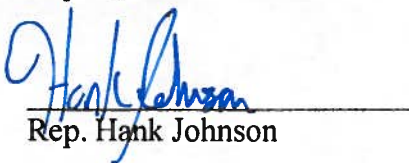
Rep. Maurice Hinchey



Rep. Mazie Hirono



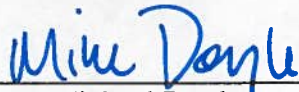
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton



Rep. Hank Johnson



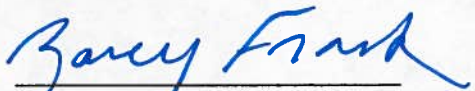
Rep. Ted Deutch



Rep. Michael Doyle



Rep. Eliot Engel



Rep. Barney Frank



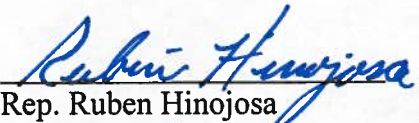
Rep. Al Green



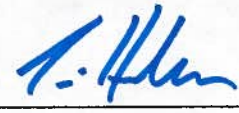
Rep. Luis Gutierrez



Rep. Martin Heinrich



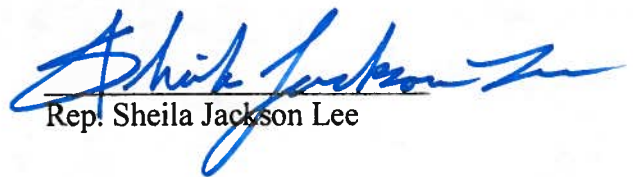
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa



Rep. Tim Holden

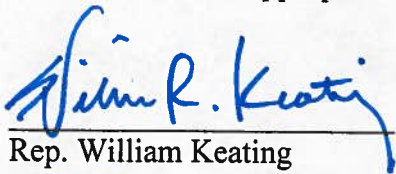



Rep. Steve Israel



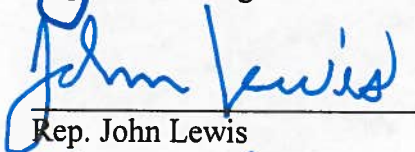
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Rep. William Keating

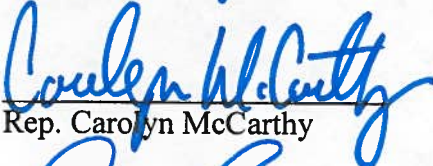
  
Rep. Ron Kind

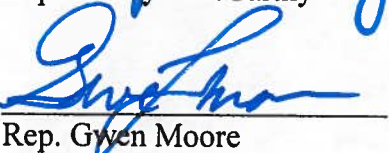
  
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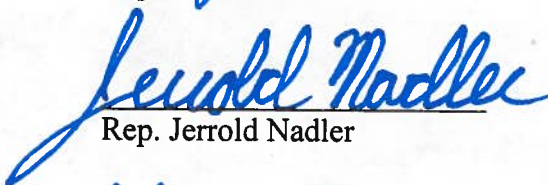
  
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Rep. Stephen Lynch

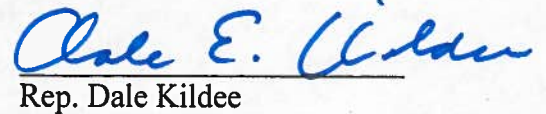
  
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy

  
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Rep. Chellie Pingree

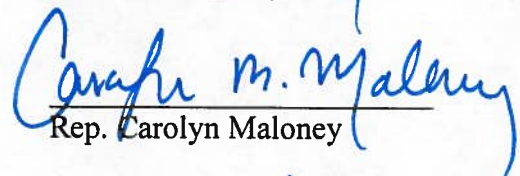
  
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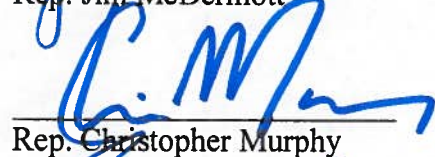
  
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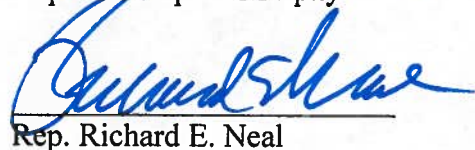
  
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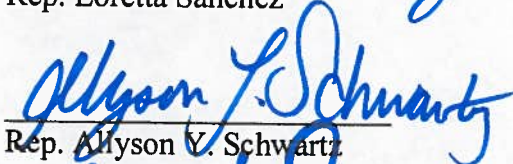
LIHEAP letter to Appropriators, March 20, 2012

  
Rep. Nick Rahall

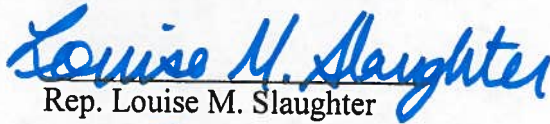
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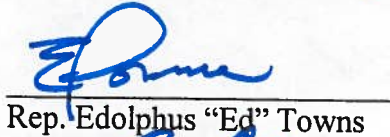
  
Rep. Mike Ross

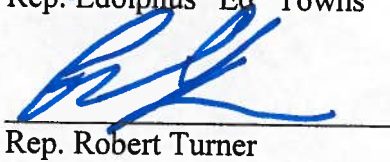
  
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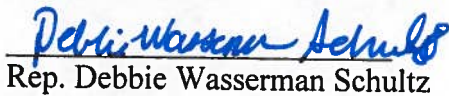
  
Rep. Alyson V. Schwartz


  
Rep. Terri Sewell

  
Rep. Louise M. Slaughter

  
Rep. Edolphus "Ed" Towns

  
Rep. Robert Turner


  
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

  
Rep. John A. Yarmuth

  
Rep. Betty Sutton


  
Rep. Charles B. Rangel

  
Rep. Laura Richardson

  
Rep. Steve Rothman

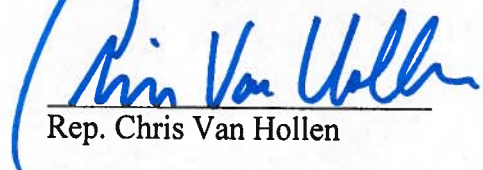
  
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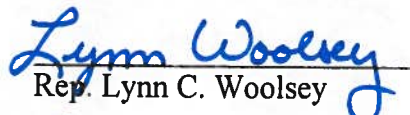
  
Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

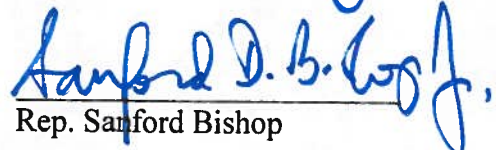
  
Rep. Albio Sires


  
Rep. Paul Tonko

  
Rep. Niki Tsongas

  
Rep. Chris Van Hollen

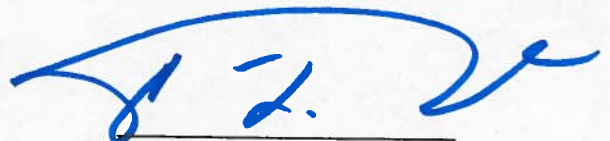
  
Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey

  
Rep. Sanford Bishop

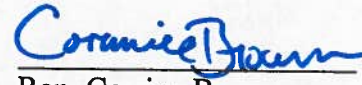
  
Rep. Bobby Rush



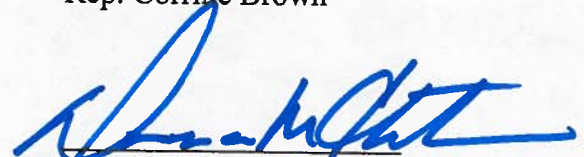
  
Rep. Tim Ryan


  
Rep. Cedric L. Richmond


  
Rep. Michael G. Fitzpatrick

  
Rep. Corrine Brown

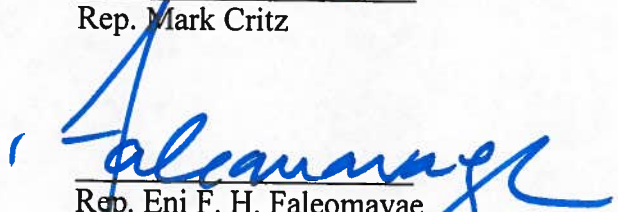
  
Rep. Michael E. Capuano

  
Rep. Donna Christensen

  
Rep. Jim Costa

  
Rep. Mark Critz

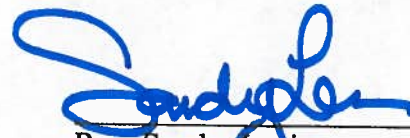
  
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Rep. Eni F. H. Faleomavae

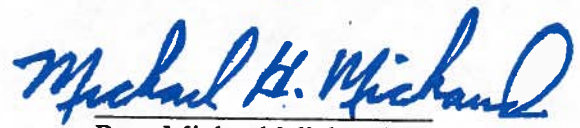
  
Rep. Brian Higgins

  
Rep. Rush Holt

  
Rep. Barbara Lee

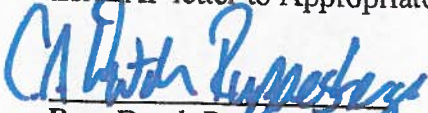
  
Rep. Sander Levin

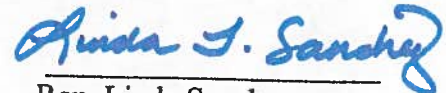
  
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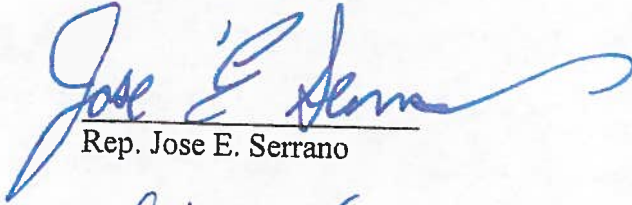
  
Rep. Michael Michaud


  
Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.

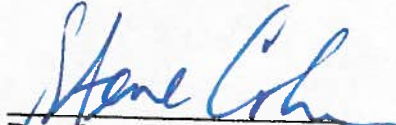
  
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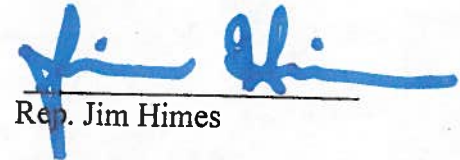
  
Rep. Dutch Ruppertsburger

  
Rep. Linda Sanchez


  
Rep. Jose E. Serrano


  
Rep. Andre Carson

  
Rep. Steve Cohen

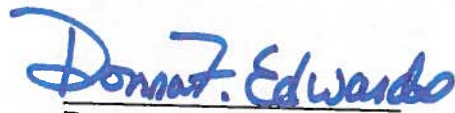
  
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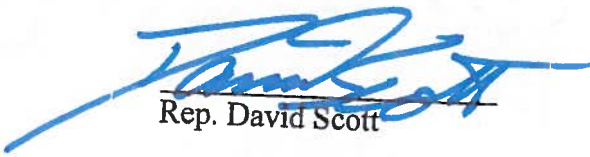
  
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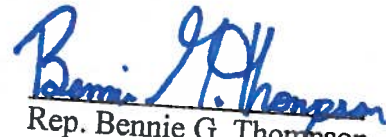
  
Rep. Hanson Clarke

  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

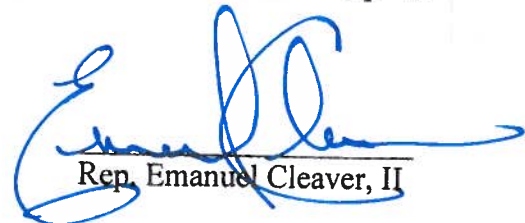
  
Donna F. Edwards

  
Rep. Elijah Cummings

  
Rep. David Scott

  
Rep. Bennie G. Thompson

  
Rep. Jim Gerlach

  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II

  
Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan