

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Subcommittee develops its FY2015 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a vital safety net for our nation's lowest-income households. **We write to urge you to include no less than \$4.7 billion for the LIHEAP program in your FY2015 appropriations bill.**

As you know, LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households, veterans, and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital and temporary assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP helps to ensure that people do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for food or medicine. The record breaking and life threatening cold that has swept much of the nation this winter is a reminder of the importance of the program.

A strong LIHEAP program is necessary to effectively meet the critical needs of our constituents, especially as energy costs remain high, the economy is still rebounding, and record numbers of families turn to the program for assistance. Furthermore, recent lower funding levels have impaired the program's ability to meet growing demand. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 17 percent between FY2010 and FY2013, from about 8.1 million to 6.7 million.

Although economists Mark Zandi and Alan Z. Blinder estimate that every dollar invested in LIHEAP generates \$1.13 in economic activity, recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by more than \$100 since 2010. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projected that average winter home heating costs would rise six percent to \$977 per household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

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 provide funding no less than \$4.7 billion in the FY2015 appropriations bill.

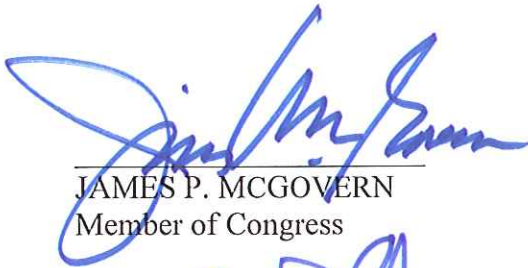
Sincerely,

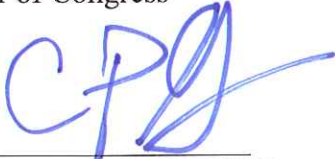


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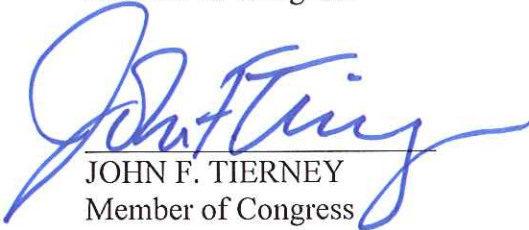


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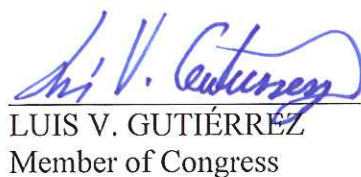
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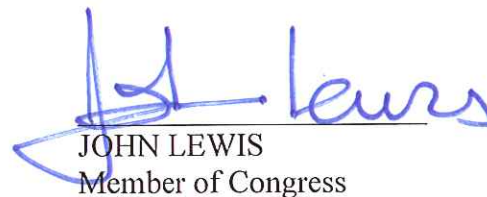

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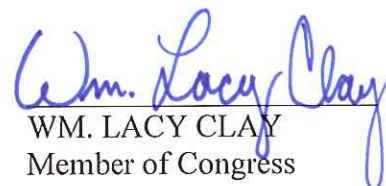

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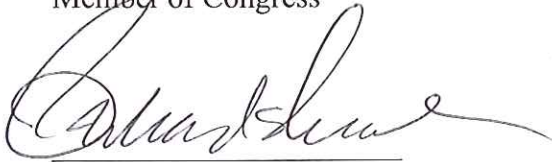

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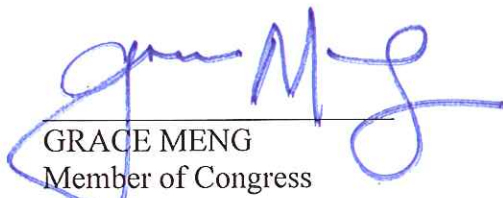

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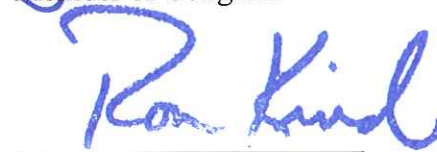

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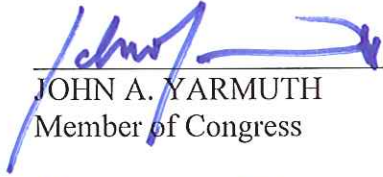

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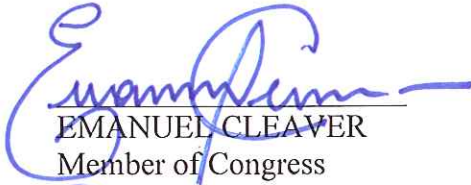

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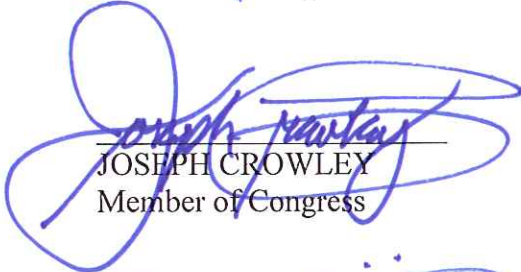

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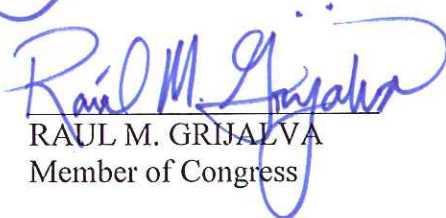

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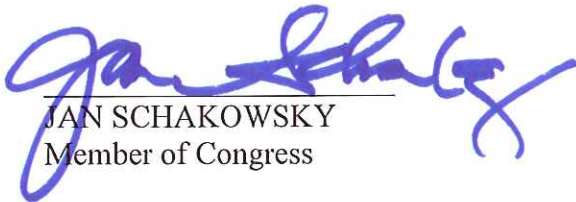

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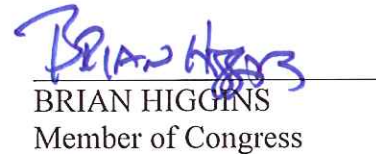

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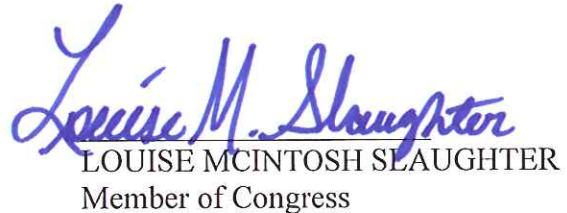

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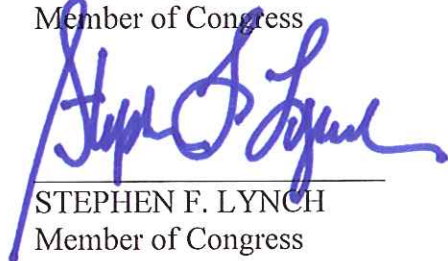

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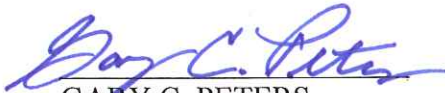
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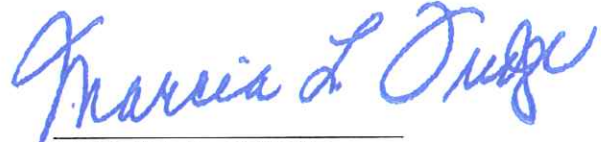
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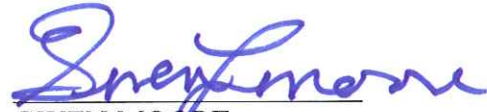
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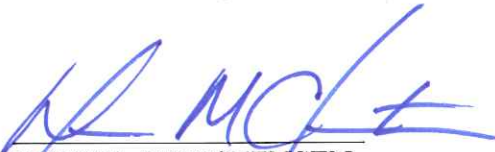
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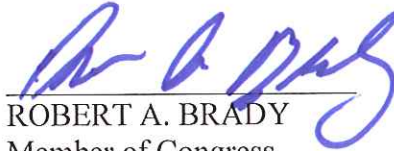
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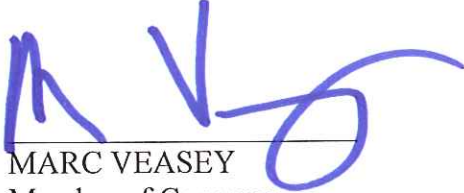
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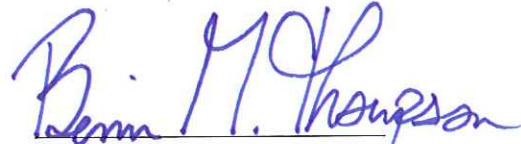
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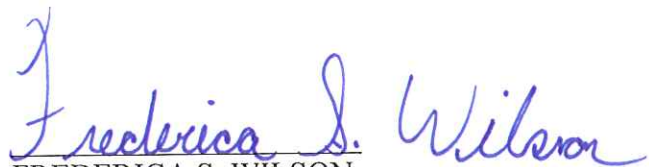
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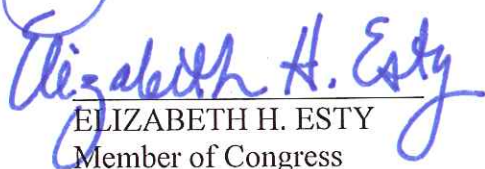
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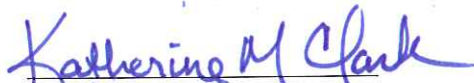
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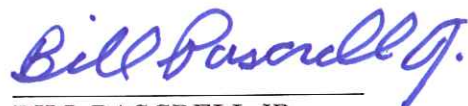
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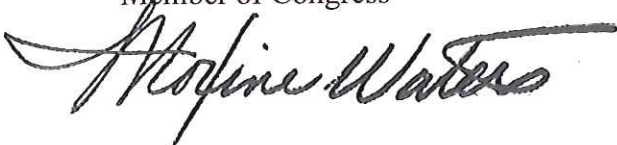
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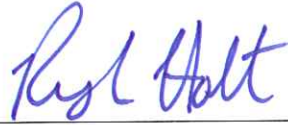
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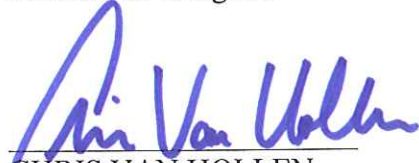
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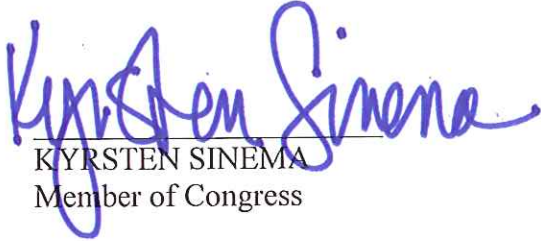
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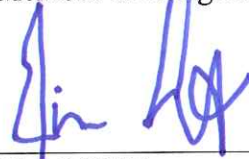
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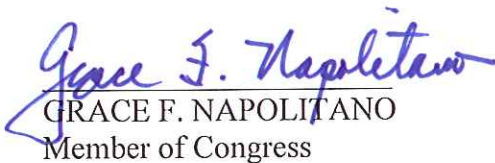
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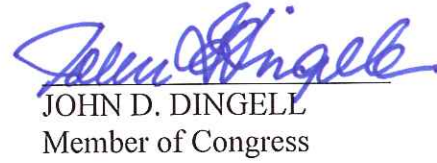
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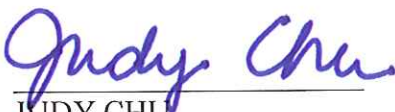
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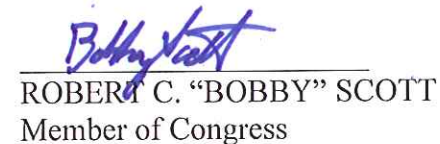
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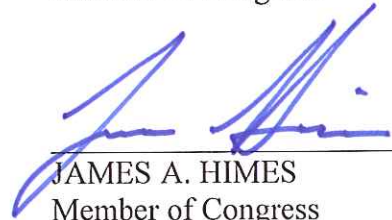
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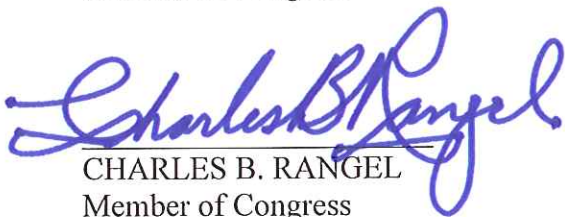
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