

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 20, 2007

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to immediately release \$200 million which is available in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) emergency contingency fund.

The release of LIHEAP contingency funds is needed to help states meet additional energy-related needs resulting from the extended arctic cold wave which has covered much of the nation during the past several days, causing temperatures in some regions to dip to forty-two degrees below zero. At least nine deaths spread over five states have been attributed to the surge of cold weather.

Between FY 2005 and FY 2006 the number of households receiving heating assistance increased from 5.1 million to 5.7 million. Preliminary reports from state officials suggest that the number of households applying for energy assistance for FY 2007 is likely to remain at FY 2006 levels. However, as a result of the recent surge of cold weather, several states across the Union are already running out of funds. They have few or no funds remaining to address crises conditions, and the situation is expected to get considerably worse in the next few weeks.

No family in our nation should be forced to choose between heating their home and putting food on the table for their children. No senior citizen should have to decide between buying life-saving prescriptions and paying utility bills. We urge you to immediately release the remaining balance of funds in the LIHEAP contingency fund.

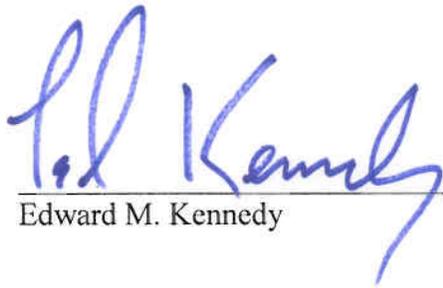
Respectfully,



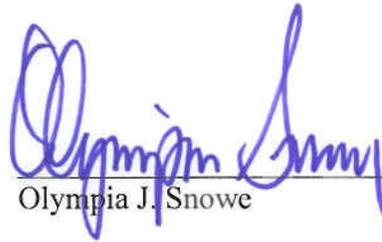
Jack Reed



Susan M. Collins



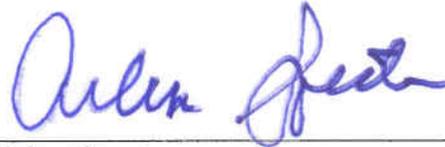
Edward M. Kennedy



Olympia J. Snowe



Tom Harkin



Arlen Specter



Richard J. Durbin



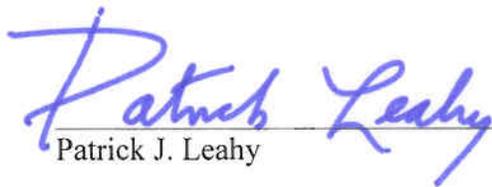
George V. Voinovich



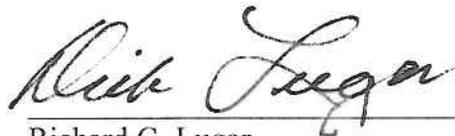
Herb Kohl



Norm Coleman



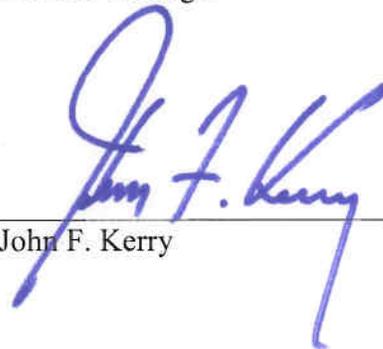
Patrick J. Leahy



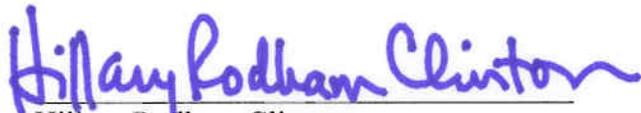
Richard G. Lugar



Sherrod Brown



John F. Kerry

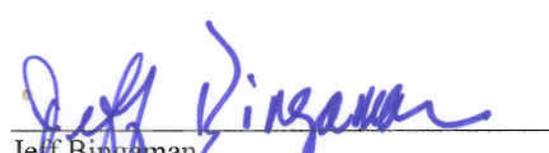

Hillary Rodham Clinton


Barack Obama


Christopher J. Dodd

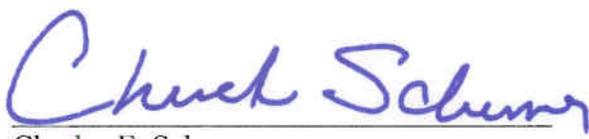

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

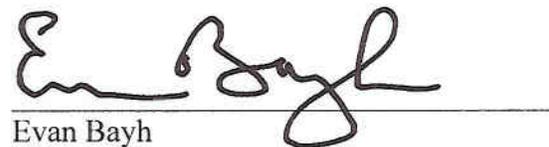

Debbie Stabenow

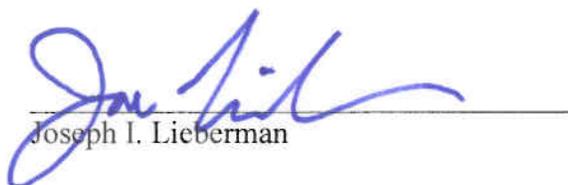

Jeff Bingaman

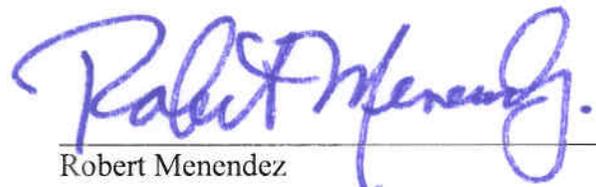

Bernard Sanders

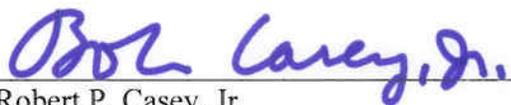

Carl Levin


Charles E. Schumer


Evan Bayh


Joseph I. Lieberman


Robert Menendez



Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Amy Klobuchar



Mary Landrieu



Sheldon Whitehouse



Barbara A. Mikulski



Maria Cantwell



Russell D. Feingold



John D. Rockefeller IV



Ken Salazar



Ron Wyden



Max Baucus



Jon Tester