

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2013

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides a vital safety net for our nation's low income households. However, the automatic across-the-board cuts required under the Budget Control Act would force many American families, already struggling to keep their homes warm during these long, cold winter months, to receive reduced benefits or lose their assistance altogether. If sequestration occurs on March 1st, we urge you to protect this critical program that many households count on to keep warm.

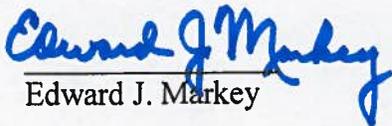
LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households, veterans and our seniors pay their energy bills. Yet, if sequestration goes into effect, an additional \$177 million would be cut from the program in FY 2013 alone, on top of the \$1.6 billion in reductions to LIHEAP that have occurred since 2010. Less funding, in the face of rising heating oil and natural gas prices, will have a devastating impact on millions of families already suffering through a slow economic recovery.

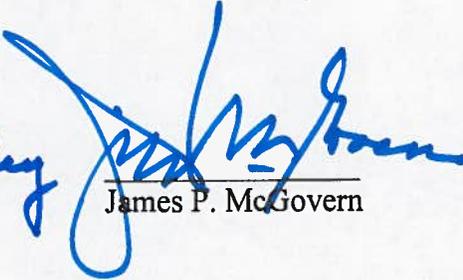
No one should have to choose between heating and eating this winter. Yet for low income families, veterans and seniors who rely upon this program across the country, this choice is too often their harsh reality. We must ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable families continue to receive help.

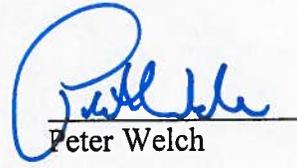
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LIHEAP Letter to Leadership

Thank you for your continued support of LIHEAP and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


James P. McGovern


Peter Welch