

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

January 23, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Republican Leader McConnell, Chairman Byrd, and Ranking Member Cochran:

I urge you to fully fund the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in fiscal year 2008 to provide for a total of \$5.1 billion.

As my colleagues and I wrote to the Appropriations Committee in December, the Energy Information Administration estimates that households can expect to pay between 10 to 26 percent more for heating fuels during the 2007-2008 winter. States need additional funding immediately to reduce the energy burden of families, individuals with disabilities, and senior citizens and ensure their health and safety this winter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Because it is vital that we not do additional damage to our long-term budget position, I would be happy to work with you to find the offsetting savings necessary to fully fund this request.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator