February 1, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As you work to craft another recovery package to help Americans cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we urgently request that you provide robust supplemental funding that reflects the increased need for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP program is well-positioned to quickly respond to, and support the needs of, millions of American households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who are struggling to heat their homes this winter and cool their homes next summer.

State energy officials have reported that they are ready to move additional LIHEAP funds quickly and have identified a need for an additional $10 billion to serve 11 million families, including newly-eligible households. Across the nation, utilities are reporting significant increases in the number of families falling behind on their utility bills. The National Energy Assistance Directors’ Association estimates that 15 to 20 percent of residential customers are at least 60 days behind on their electric and natural gas bills.

LIHEAP assistance is an indispensable lifeline, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine. Yet the annual funding for LIHEAP is only able to provide benefits to approximately one in six eligible households. We appreciate the $900 million included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act for LIHEAP, but those funds are now fully obligated and additional funding is necessary to help the newly unemployed with their growing bills.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to support these important programs in this time of crisis.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Chris Murphy
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator
/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Maria Cantwell
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Tom Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator