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Folder Title:

670811

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2005

670811

FA

EW/LACORR 7/26

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

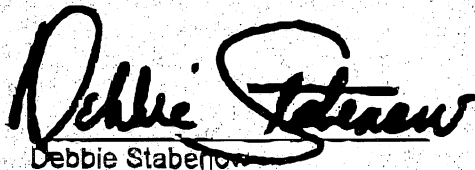
We urge you to immediately release the remaining \$47.6 million in emergency Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding provided in the fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The high energy costs facing low-income households and the heat wave experienced throughout the Northeast and Midwest warrants the release of these funds.

The first official week of summer brought a heat wave with temperatures climbing into the 90s across states in the Northeast and Midwest. In Michigan, Wisconsin and Vermont, the National Weather Service said June was the second hottest on record in the state. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "New York State had its warmest June on record, with 12 other states from Minnesota to Maine ranking much above normal for the month." Temperatures reaching above 90 degrees in Cleveland prompted city officials to test a new system to warn seniors to keep cool. An automated telephone system dialed the homes of more than 57,000 residents 65 and older, who are especially susceptible to the heat. In Boston, temperatures at the end of June reached a high of 95 degrees -- the hottest the city has been since August 18, 2002. For the July, cooling degree days for the region remained significantly higher than normal.

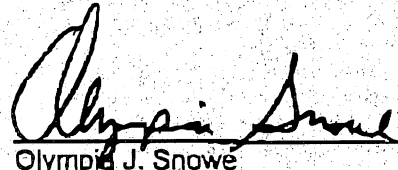
Many low-income consumers entered this summer facing high energy debt due to the winter's unaffordable energy prices and cold weather. The heat wave that affected the Northeast and Midwest states in June, and the current heat wave affecting the nation, is adding to these households' energy burdens, especially low-income seniors, as they must run air-conditioning to remain cool and safe. For example, on Tuesday, July 19th, ISO New England recorded the highest electricity usage in New England history.

We believe the cooling crisis facing low-income Americans warrants the immediate release of emergency LIHEAP assistance. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

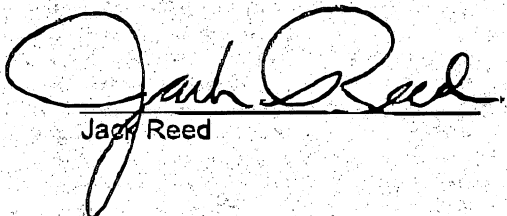
Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow

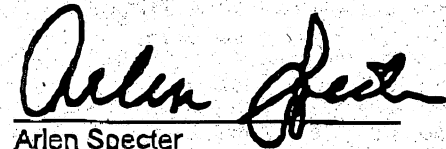


Olympia J. Snowe




Jack Reed

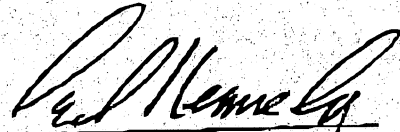
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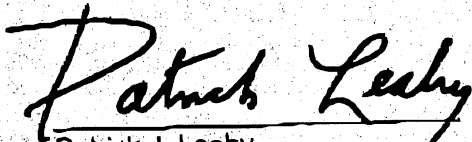


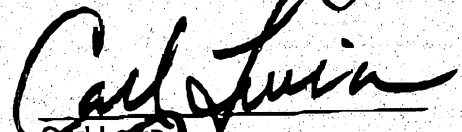
Arlen Specter

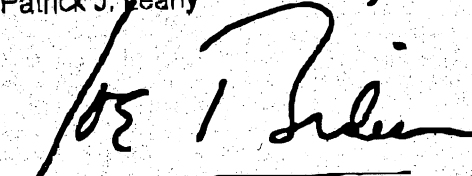
Page Two
Letter to President on LIHEAP Emergency Funding

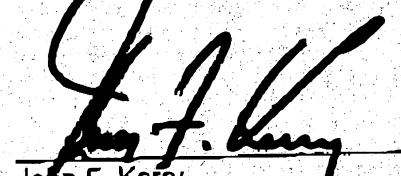

Tom Harkin

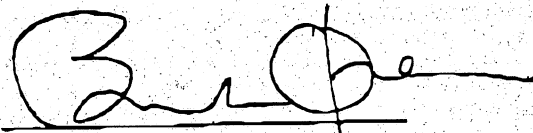

Edward M. Kennedy

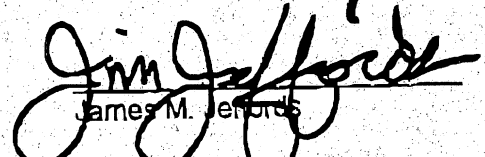

Patrick J. Leahy

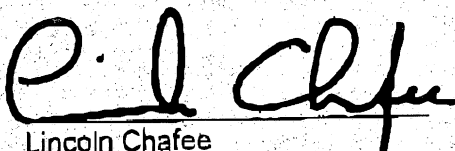

Carl Levin

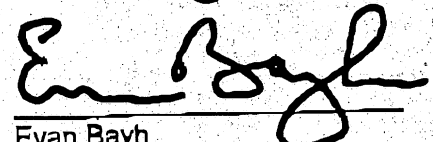

Joseph R. Biden


John F. Kerry


Barack Obama

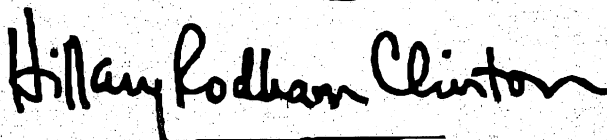

James M. Jeffords

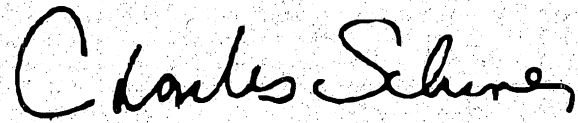

Lincoln Chafee

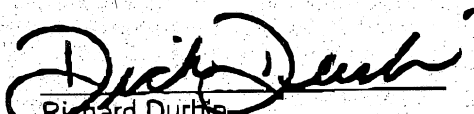

Evan Bayh


Jon S. Corzine


Frank R. Lautenberg



Hillary Rodham Clinton


Charles E. Schumer


Richard Durbin


Mike DeWine

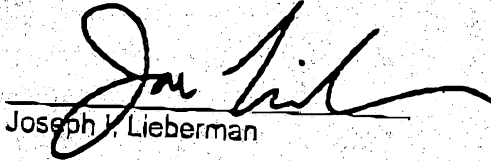
Page Three
Letter to President on LIHEAP Emergency Funding



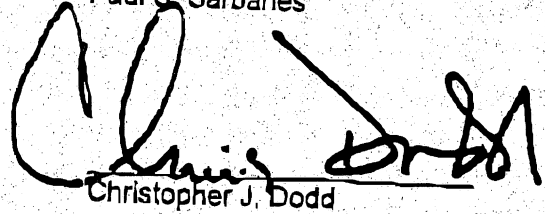
Thomas R. Carper



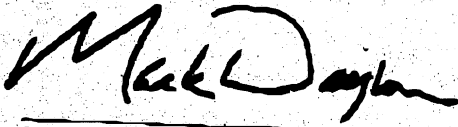
Paul S. Sarbanes



Joseph J. Lieberman



Christopher J. Dodd



Mark Dayton