



October 27, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Urgent Need to Safeguard LIHEAP During the Government Shutdown

Dear Congressional Leaders:

The undersigned organizations, representing thousands of mostly small, family-owned heating fuel and home-comfort businesses across the United States, write to urge Congress to take immediate, bipartisan action to protect the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) during the current federal government shutdown.

With colder weather now setting in across much of the country, millions of low-income and fixed-income households depend on timely assistance from LIHEAP to stay safe and warm. Yet as the shutdown continues, state and local agencies responsible for administering LIHEAP may experience delays in processing new applications, issuing payments, and authorizing vendor deliveries until federal funding is restored. These delays directly affect vulnerable households and the small businesses that provide their heating fuels.

Most delivered fuel retailers are small, locally owned family businesses that operate on narrow seasonal margins and have limited credit capacity. They employ local technicians, deliver fuel in rural and hard-to-reach communities, and serve as a lifeline for families who have no alternative source of heat. Extended interruptions in LIHEAP funding jeopardize their ability to sustain operations, maintain employment, and continue serving those most in need.

We urge Congress to take immediate action to ensure continued LIHEAP funding throughout any lapse in appropriations, thereby providing urgently needed stability for millions of households and the small businesses that serve them.

Equally critical, we urge you to include language in any funding measure that requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to maintain sufficient staffing to effectively administer LIHEAP. The termination of all federal LIHEAP staff, combined with ongoing furloughs and reductions-in-force programs, has left the program critically understaffed, severely limiting the ability to carry out essential functions. As a result, vulnerable households and fuel vendors are going without the vital assistance and guidance they urgently need.

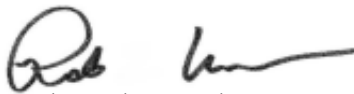
As Congress works toward a comprehensive agreement to reopen the government, we respectfully urge you to act swiftly to:

- Authorize continued LIHEAP operations during any lapse in federal appropriations;
- Ensure that funds already appropriated or obligated for FY 2025 and FY 2026 remain accessible to states and eligible households; and
- Require HHS to maintain adequate staffing levels necessary to administer the program and support state agencies effectively.

Our members take pride in keeping American families warm, safe, and secure every winter. We ask Congress to do the same by ensuring that no family or the small businesses that serve them are left out in the cold because of a budget impasse in Washington.

Thank you for your leadership and for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,



Rob Underwood
President
Energy Marketers of America (EMA)



Jim Collura
President & CEO
National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI)



Steve Kaminski
President & CEO
National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)

Robert C. O'Brien

Bob O'Brien
President
Organization of Energy Service Professionals (OESP)



Cindy Sheridan
Chief Executive Officer
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (PHCC) - National Association

Regional, state, and local organization signatories follow on subsequent pages.

Regional, State, and Local Organizations:

Alabama

Alabama Propane Gas Association

Alaska

Pacific Propane Gas Association

Arizona

Arizona Propane Gas Association

Arkansas

Arkansas Propane Gas Association

California

Western Propane Gas Association

Colorado

Colorado Propane Gas Association

Connecticut

Connecticut Energy Marketers Association

Propane Gas Association of New England

Delaware

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

Mid-Atlantic Propane Gas Association

District of Columbia

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

Florida

Florida Propane Gas Association

Hawaii

Pacific Propane Gas Association

Idaho

Rocky Mountain Propane Association

Illinois

Illinois Propane Gas Association

Indiana

Indiana Food & Fuel Association

Indiana Propane Gas Association

Iowa

Iowa Propane Gas Association

Kansas

Propane Marketers Association of Kansas

Kentucky

Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Association

Kentucky Propane Gas Association

Louisiana

Louisiana Propane Gas Association

Maine

Maine Energy Marketers Association

Maine Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association

Propane Gas Association of New England

Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

Mid-Atlantic Propane Gas Association

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Energy Marketers Association

Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors of

Massachusetts

Propane Gas Association of New England

Michigan

Michigan Petroleum Association

Michigan Propane Gas Association

Minnesota

Minnesota Propane Association

Mississippi

Mississippi Propane Gas Association

Missouri

Missouri Propane Gas Association

Montana

Rocky Mountain Propane Association

Nebraska

Nebraska Propane Gas Association

Nevada

Energy and Convenience Association of Nevada

Nevada Propane Dealers Association

New Jersey

Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey

New Jersey Propane Gas Association

New Mexico

New Mexico Propane Gas Association

New Hampshire

Energy Marketers Association of New

Hampshire

Propane Gas Association of New England

New York

Empire State Energy Association
New York Propane Gas Association
New York State Energy Coalition
New York State Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors

North Carolina

North Carolina Petroleum & Convenience Marketers
Southeast Propane Association

North Dakota

North Dakota Propane Gas Association

Ohio

Ohio Energy and Convenience Association
Ohio Propane Gas Association

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Propane Gas Association

Oregon

Oregon Fuels Association
Pacific Propane Gas Association

Pennsylvania

Eastern Pennsylvania Energy Association
Northeastern Pennsylvania Energy Marketers Association
Pennsylvania Petroleum Association
Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association
Pennsylvania Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors
South Central Pennsylvania Energy Association

Rhode Island

Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island
Propane Gas Association of New England

South Carolina

South Carolina Convenience & Petroleum Marketers Association
Southeast Propane Association

South Dakota

South Dakota Petroleum & Propane Marketers Association

Tennessee

Tennessee Propane Gas Association

Texas

Texas Propane Gas Association

Utah

Rocky Mountain Propane Association

Vermont

Heating and Cooling Contractors of Vermont
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association
Propane Gas Association of New England

Virginia

Virginia Petroleum & Convenience Marketers Association
Virginia Propane Gas Association

Washington State

Pacific Propane Gas Association
Washington Oil Marketers Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Propane Gas Association

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Fuel & Retail Association
Wisconsin Propane Gas Association

Wyoming

Rocky Mountain Propane Association