

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 5, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We write in support of two successful federal programs, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which are currently helping to meet the energy needs of eligible low-income households across the country. Extreme weather across the United States, including record-breaking cold temperatures in several states recently brought by the polar vortex, have once again highlighted the importance of affordable access to home energy as a matter of health and safety for more than six million low-income households, many of which include children, veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. LIHEAP and WAP have long enjoyed bipartisan support, and we hope that you will prioritize funding for both programs in your fiscal year 2020 budget proposal.

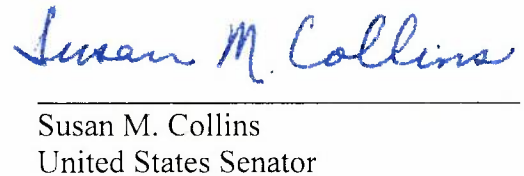
LIHEAP helps these low-income households with their energy bills, providing an indispensable lifeline during both the cold winter and hot summer months. More than 71 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child under the age of six, a senior, or an individual with a disability. This program helps to ensure that eligible recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording other necessities like food and medicine. This is especially important during the peak winter heating and summer cooling seasons, when energy bills can comprise more than 30 percent of a low-income household's monthly income. Unfortunately, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP assistance continues to exceed the program's capacity.

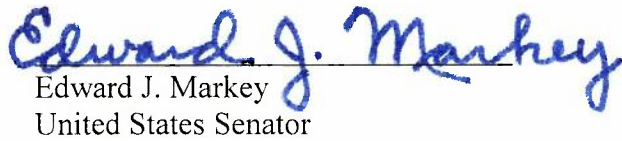
WAP is another critical program, which for more than 40 years has helped to reduce the burden of high home energy prices for over 7.4 million low-income households. By supporting lasting and cost-effective home energy efficiency improvements for low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, WAP is increasing the energy efficiency of people's homes, reducing residential energy bills, improving the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens, and helping to lower the need for short-term assistance. WAP has been repeatedly demonstrated as cost-effective with every \$1 invested in weatherization returning over \$4 in benefits. WAP has also supported thousands of high quality, skilled jobs as well as local small businesses. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that weatherization saves eligible single-family homes on average \$283 in annual energy cost savings, which benefits not only the household but also boosts the local economy. And in cold weather states, weatherization has reduced heating bills by 30 percent on average.

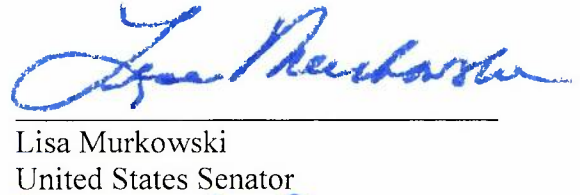
Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. We recognize the ongoing challenges facing the discretionary budget and look forward to working with you to support these vital programs and ensuring access to affordable home energy for the most vulnerable households in every state.

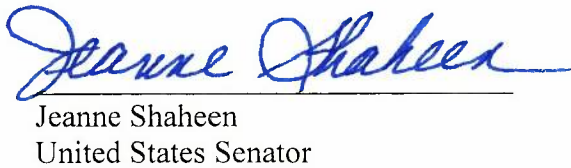
Sincerely,

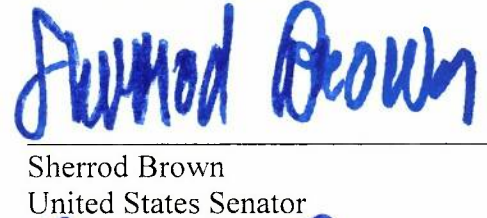

Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

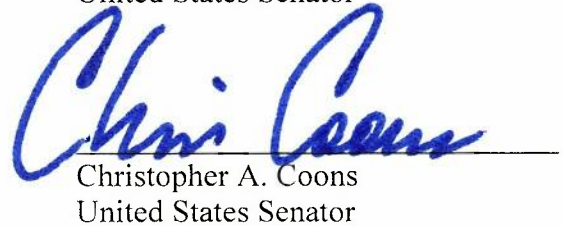

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

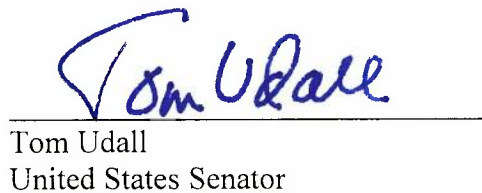

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

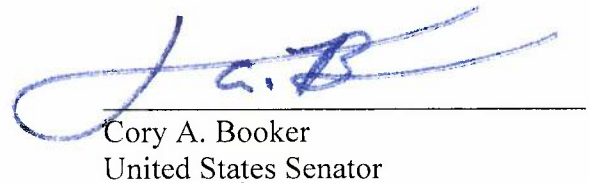

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

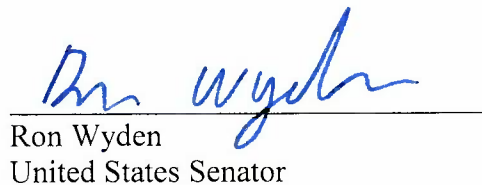

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

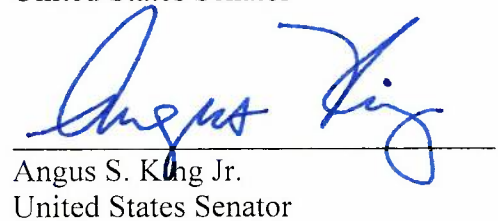

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

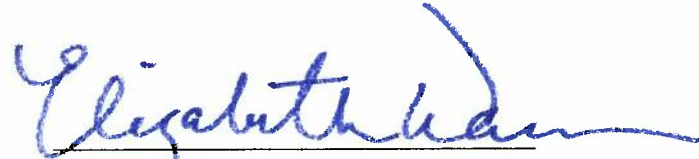

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

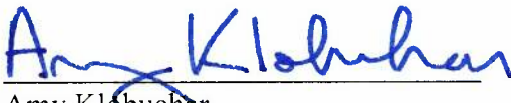

Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator

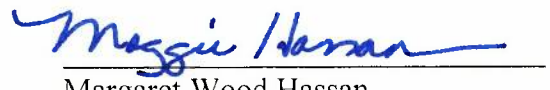

Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

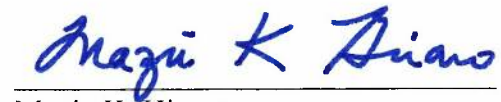

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

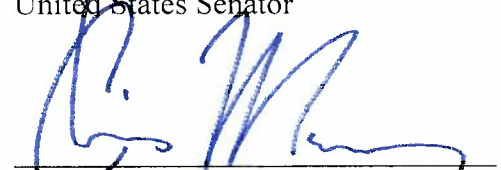

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

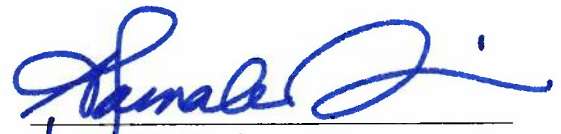

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

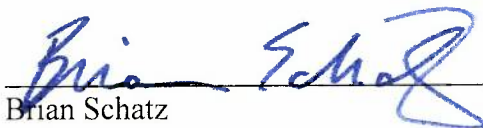

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

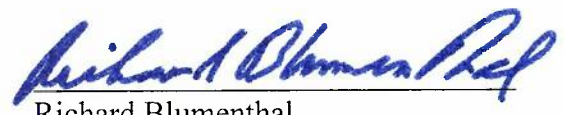

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator


Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

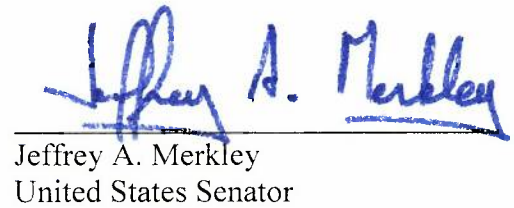

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator

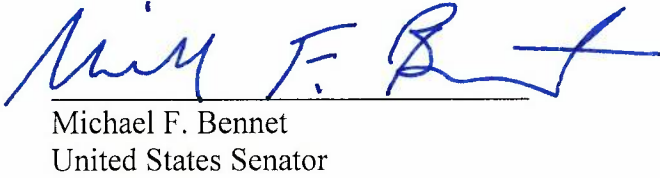

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



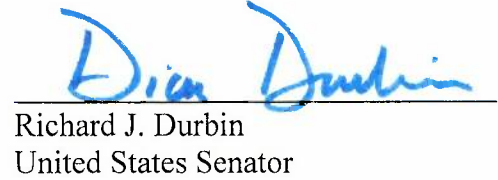
Joe Manchin II
United States Senator



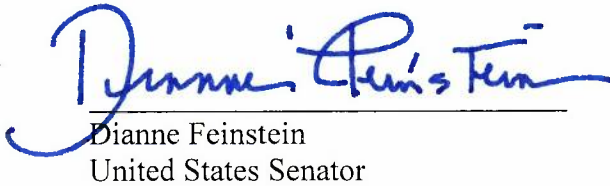
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



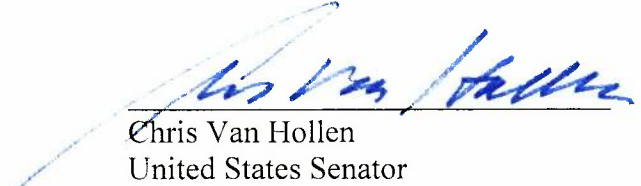
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



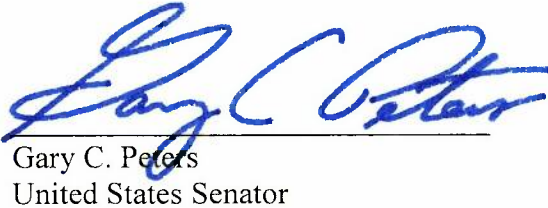
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



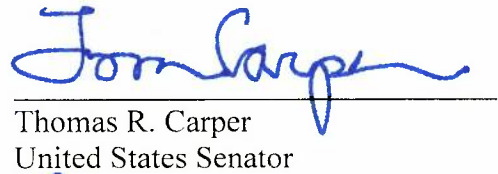
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



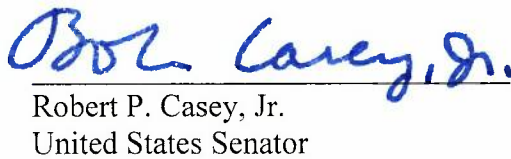
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



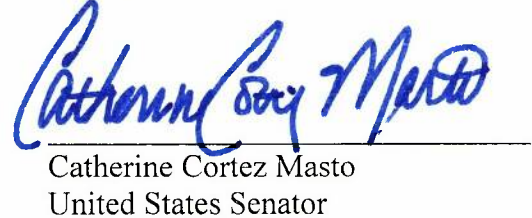
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



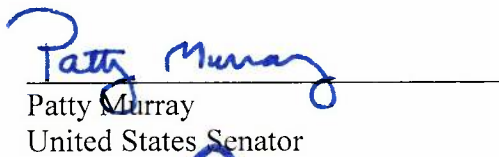
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



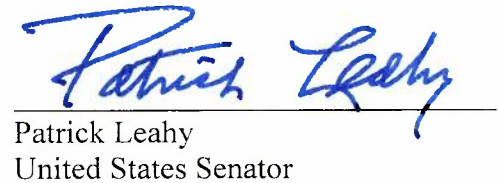
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



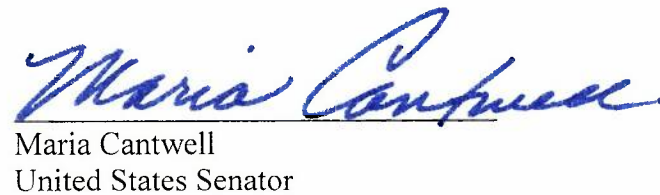
Patty Murray
United States Senator



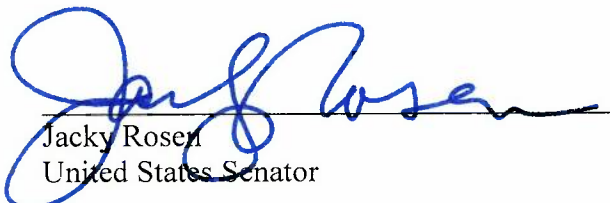
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



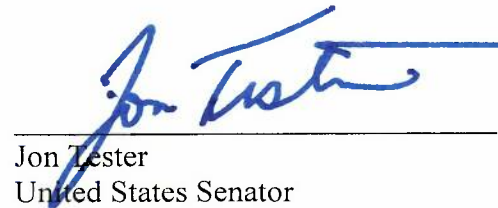
Doug Jones
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

CC: Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget