



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 5, 2014

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Senator
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Al Franken
Senator
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walz
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kline
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Keith Ellison
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michele Bachmann
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Nolan
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

I am writing you today concerning Minnesota's urgent need for additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As you know, the bitterly cold winter has caused a critical shortage of propane, which in turn has caused prices to become unaffordable for thousands of Minnesotans. We are most grateful for the additional \$15.8 million in LIHEAP federal funds allocated to Minnesota last week. Even so, we project that our LIHEAP program will be out of funds shortly after March 10th. I respectfully ask you for your assistance in providing additional federal funding to help Minnesotans make it through this winter.

Now, as of the writing of this letter, our state's Emergency Operations Hotline has received over 2,100 calls from citizens, who are desperate for financial assistance. Minnesota's

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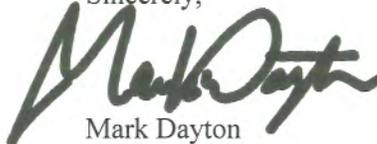
winter has, thus far, been the coldest in 30 years. Current long-range weather forecasts predict that we will continue to experience below-normal temperatures through March.

To help Minnesotans survive this crisis, we first increased LIHEAP crisis benefits dollars from \$500 to \$1,000 for households using propane or other heating sources. Yesterday, we expanded LIHEAP's eligibility from 50% of the State Median Income to 60%, to help more people with emergency funding. However, as a result of this expanded need, our state's LIHEAP funding, which we typically administer to last through May 31st of each year, is now projected to exhaust its funding shortly after March 10th. At that time, we could very well have four to six weeks of winter weather remaining.

Therefore, I ask you again to please support any additional LIHEAP funding for this winter. LIHEAP is a very successful, cost-effective program, providing vital support for over 150,000 Minnesota households, who otherwise could not afford enough heat to survive a brutal winter. In this time of emergency, it is more important than ever to continue our commitment to our citizens most in need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Dayton
Governor