



# 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 President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The state of Minnesota urgently needs additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). 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 to you for the additional \$15.8 million in LIHEAP funds allocated to Minnesota last week. Even so, we project that our LIHEAP program will be out of funds shortly after March 10<sup>th</sup>. I respectfully ask you for your assistance in providing additional federal funding to help Minnesotans make it through this winter.

In the past five days, our state's Emergency Operations Hotline has received over 1,700 calls from citizens, who are desperate for financial assistance. Minnesota's 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 have 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 provide 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 that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Senator Al Franken  
Congressman Tim Walz  
Congressman John Kline  
Congressman Erik Paulsen  
Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Congressman Keith Ellison  
Congresswoman Michele Bachmann  
Congressman Collin Peterson  
Congressman Rick Nolan

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