

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 8th, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Hurricane Katrina stands to be one of the worst natural disasters our country has ever endured. With millions of Americans displaced, an untold number of fatalities, and massive areas in need of clean up, Congress is poised to help in anyway we can. The United States always comes together in times of crisis and this will be no exception; the Gulf States will receive the full support of our nation. Congress has approved, and you have signed into law, the first emergency supplemental that demonstrates the government's commitment to meeting these needs. But we must do more.

As you consider additional emergency supplemental funding in response to this disaster, we urge you to give serious thought to the wider effects this catastrophe will have beyond the shores of the Gulf. Even prior to Katrina, our nation was feeling the squeeze of record high energy prices; with the massive disruption of this Hurricane, prices will continue to rise rapidly and create a looming crisis for our cold weather states. As a result, we urge you to include \$900 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds in the upcoming relief package. In the face of soaring energy costs, this additional funding will help maintain the program's 2004 purchasing power this winter. This funding is critical to stymie further fallout of Katrina's destruction and reduce the anxiety of a home heating crisis this winter.

Oil and natural gas prices were already at record levels prior to the damage Katrina inflicted on this critical energy region. As a result, we can expect to face the most expensive winter heating season in history across the country. On Thursday, September 7th, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projected that residential per-household expenditures on natural gas could be up as much as 71 percent over last year and home heating oil could increase by as much as 31 percent. These increases are on top of double digit increases in 2004.

The newly enacted Energy Policy Act recognized the vastly reduced purchasing power of recent LIHEAP funding levels and increased the authorization from \$2 billion to \$5.1 billion. This modest request for \$900 million in the emergency supplemental will at least keep the program level with the purchasing power of 2004.

Congress stands firm in our commitment to rebuild the Gulf communities destroyed by the storm. It is also our responsibility to address the wider ramifications of this natural disaster and avert another crisis down the road by providing additional LIHEAP emergency funds. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Byrd

Wally White

Ernest F. Steyer

Louise M. Slaughter

Fredd R. Platts

John Schaback

Melissa A. Hurt

Tom Allen

John W. Over

John B. Raman

Mike Doyle

Melina Z. Bean

Jim W. Cooper

David E. Bonior

Tim Wainwright

Tim Ryan

John A. Boehner

Joe Schwarz

Jim Langevin

Patrick D. Kennedy

Job Bradley
Tinty
Eden Emanuel

Mile Castle
Vt. J. L.
Ron Kind

Neil English
Julia Carson
Paul E. Kajonlin

Clark E. Widdie
Edward J. Murphy
Jane Evans

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Peter J. Vucelja

Rosa C. J. Lam

Richard E. Neal

John Hargill
Shang Soek-hut

John Brown
John W. Blodgett

Michael H. Madson

Jane Camp

Thaddeus McCotter

Rust Holt

Ally V. Costello

Erin L. Enger

Winnifred R. McHenry

Bert Schulz

Bert Snyak

Gerold Radley

James J. Walsh

Tom Petri

Robert E. ...

~~Massachusetts~~ ...

Robert L. Rush

Paul F. Blumenthal

Gary L. Ackerman

Chris ...

1. Ackerman, Gary
2. Allen, Tom
3. Andrews, Robert
4. Bass, Charles
5. Bean, Melissa
6. Boehlert, Sherwood
7. Bradley, Jeb
8. Brown, Sherrod
9. Camp, Dave
10. Carson, Julia
11. Castle, Mike
12. Costello, Jerry
13. Crowley, Joseph
14. DeLauro, Rosa
15. Dingell, John
16. Doyle, Michael
17. Emanuel, Rahm
18. Engel, Eliot
19. English, Phil
20. Evans, Lane
21. Fossella, Vito
22. Gilchrest, Wayne
23. Hart, Melissa
24. Hinchey, Maurice
25. Holt, Rush
26. Johnson, Nancy
27. Johnson, Tim
28. Kanjorski, Paul
29. Kennedy, Patrick
30. Kildee, Dale
31. Kind, Ron
32. Langevin, James
33. Larson, John
34. LaTourette, Steven
35. LoBiondo, Frank
36. Markey, Ed
37. McCotter, Thaddeus
38. McGovern, James
39. McHugh, John
40. McNulty, Michael
41. Meehan, Martin
42. Michaud, Michael
43. Nadler, Jerrold
44. Neal, Richard
45. Olver, John
46. Petri, Thomas

47. Platts, Todd
48. Rush, Bobby
49. Ryan, Tim
50. Sanders, Bernard
51. Schakowsky, Janice
52. Schwarz, Joe
53. Shays, Christopher
54. Simmons, Rob
55. Slaughter, Louise
56. Stupak, Bart
57. Visclosky, Peter
58. Walsh, James