

**M. Jodi Rell**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

November 17, 2010

The Hon. Toni Harp, Co-Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Hon. John Geragosian, Co-Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Hon. Paul Doyle, Co-Chair  
Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Hon. Toni Walker, Co-Chair  
Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Hon. John Fonfara, Co-Chair  
Energy & Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Hon. Vickie Nardello, Co-Chair  
Energy & Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Committee Chairs:

In September, recognizing the substantially lower federal funding levels Connecticut could anticipate for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), my Administration put forward a responsible, rational plan for administering the state's winter heating aid program.

Because Congress was only expected to provide about \$2.7 billion nationally, compared with \$4.5 billion in the preceding year, the Administration recommended returning benefit levels – which were raised when energy prices reached unprecedented highs – to their previous but still substantial levels. For the same reason, the proposal also would have restored eligibility criteria to their original levels.

Both actions were intended to ensure this year's program would continue to serve Connecticut residents who were most in need while recognizing that – because we cannot spend money we do not have – state government was not in a position to step in and replace federal funding.

The Legislature, through your committees, rejected these proposals. Despite an explicit warning that funding for the state's heating aid program would likely run out as early as December, legislators opted to maintain benefits and eligibility at their current, extraordinarily generous levels.

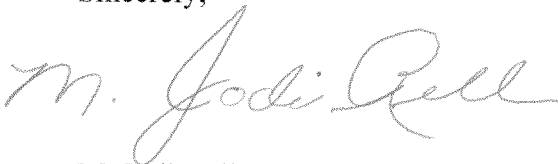
In fact, it now appears that the program may run out of money as early as the end of this month. As you know, the heating season in Connecticut runs through mid-May. Given your unwillingness to adopt the prudent recommendations we put forward in September, it is now incumbent upon you to decide how you will resolve this looming crisis.

Like you, I will not tolerate even one person in Connecticut being forced to go without heat. I continue to advocate strongly, along with my fellow Governors, for additional federal LIHEAP funding. And my Administration stands ready to work with you as you develop potential solutions to this problem. In fact, we are ready to immediately begin helping you identify spending cuts in other areas of the budget that would free up funds to ensure that adequate heating aid is maintained.

However, I want to be very clear that I will not support additional borrowing to pay for the ongoing expense of the state's heating program. I will not allow our indebtedness to be increased – even before the Economic Recovery Revenue Bonds are sold – simply because the Legislature lacks the fortitude to cut spending or make other difficult decisions.

Your urgent action is required. My office and officials from my Administration stand ready to assist you as needed. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor