

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
400 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

March 30, 2017

GLADYS M. BROWN  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
U.S. Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: FY 2018 LIHEAP and Weatherization Funding**

Dear Senator Casey:

As you begin budget negotiations for FY 2018, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) encourages you to provide at least the FY 2017 funding level of \$3.4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) including the usual contingency funds needed to address unforeseen energy emergencies such as the polar vortex experienced in 2014. We also encourage you to provide at least the FY 2017 funding level of \$205 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The President's preliminary budget proposal for FY 2018 recommends eliminating all funding for both programs.

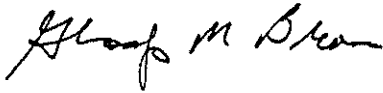
The Commission has long recognized LIHEAP as a critical part of the safety net assisting low-income Pennsylvania consumers and, in the past, has taken action supporting full LIHEAP funding. We join Governor Tom Wolf in supporting retention of this critical program.

LIHEAP provides assistance for home heating bills to keep approximately 345,000 citizens including the elderly, children, and individuals living with a disability warm and safe during the winter months. The program is available to both renters and homeowners and grants go directly to their utility company or home heating fuel provider. Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services received approximately \$185.5 million of an allotted \$206 million in federal funding for the 2016-17 LIHEAP season. The failure of Congress to provide funding for FY 2018 could jeopardize at risk Pennsylvania households next winter.

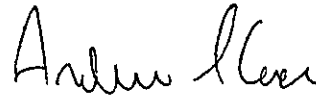
Additionally, funding for the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is also slated to be eliminated. Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development received approximately \$13.8 million in WAP funding for FY 2017 to install proven energy efficiency measures in approximately 1,500 low-income homes to reduce energy costs and safeguard health and safety. Priority is given to higher risk residents such as the elderly, disabled individuals, families with children, and high energy users.

The Commission greatly appreciates your consideration and continued commitment to help our most vulnerable families. We ask that you take this opportunity to ensure adequate funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Sincerely,



Gladys M. Brown  
Chairman



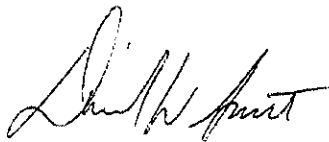
Andrew G. Place  
Vice Chairman



John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Commissioner



Robert F. Powelson  
Commissioner



David W. Sweet  
Commissioner

cc: PA Congressional Delegation  
Governor Tom Wolf  
Ted Dallas, Secretary, Department of Human Services  
Dennis M. Davin, Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development