



April 10, 2025

Chairman Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Bernie Sanders  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

The American Public Power Association (APPA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), collectively representing the nation's community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities, urge the committee to focus attention on continued efficient and effective implementation of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). LIHEAP provides critical home heating and cooling assistance to millions of vulnerable American families.

Cuts to LIHEAP will impact those Americans who are least able to afford interruptions in energy services. We support efforts to improve efficiency within the federal government, especially if it means that more appropriated dollars will be available for energy assistance. But we urge your rigorous oversight of HHS to ensure that the recent elimination of staff from the energy assistance division does not mean that LIHEAP comes to a halt.

HHS must fulfill its statutory obligations to administer the LIHEAP program. In the short term, that means HHS must release the remaining appropriated dollars for Fiscal Year 2025 of approximately \$400 million to the states. Time is of the essence for those states that provide cooling assistance as we are quickly entering the warmer summer months. Failure to release these funds in a timely way will mean that life-saving assistance dollars will sit at the U.S. Treasury rather than keeping service flowing uninterrupted to Americans in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Public Power Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association