



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

October 2, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden
United States House of Representatives
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and Representative Golden:

I write to urge Congress to make available additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for this winter.

As you know, Maine is the most heating oil-dependent state in the nation, with half of all homes reliant on oil for their primary source of heat. As a large, rural state with an older housing stock, Maine people are especially vulnerable to spikes in the cost of heating fuel.

Last week, the average price of heating oil in Maine reached a record \$6.02 per gallon, costing Maine people approximately \$740 more to fill a standard 275-gallon tank than this time last year. Similar trends exist for the thousands of Maine LIHEAP recipients that rely on kerosene for home heating and whose prices are also now nearing historic highs. These record prices are the direct result of President Trump's ill-conceived war in Iran that has resulted in the largest supply disruptions in global history.

Maine people should not be forced to choose between staying warm and putting food on the table because the President chose to drag the country into a needless war.

Federal funding levels appropriated for LIHEAP this winter did not fully consider the drastic impacts of the President's war that has sent fuel prices skyrocketing and are now insufficient for the circumstances that Maine and other cold-climate states now face. Congress should significantly increase these funds to ensure the safety and comfort of Maine people heading into the winter season.

I thank you for your bipartisan efforts to support FY2027 appropriations for LIHEAP even as the President's budget fully eliminated this critical program and your efforts to have the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unlock the FY2027 funds.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

I urge you to work with your colleagues to provide a supplemental appropriation for LIHEAP to ensure that Maine people are not left to shoulder the burden of the President's blunder.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER