



Citizens Utility Board of Michigan
921 N. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906
(248) 385-3167

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Peters:

We write to you to express our urgent concern regarding the future of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to emphasize the critical importance of fully funding this program for Michigan families. LIHEAP provides essential support to thousands of low-income households across Michigan, from rural and isolated communities to urban centers. Without LIHEAP, countless Michigan families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities will be forced to make painful choices between paying for heating, medicine, food, or rent.

Michigan residents benefit from four vital programs dependent on LIHEAP funding:

- **Home Heating Credit (HHC)**, providing a tax break to eligible households to offset heating costs.
- **State Emergency Relief (SER)**, which provides direct assistance to families in crisis and assists certain households with the costs of delivered fuels like wood and propane.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**, helping residents in older homes with essential upgrades to reduce energy waste and lower monthly bills.
- **Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)**, providing budgeting assistance, direct bill payment assistance, and help connecting with energy efficiency services.

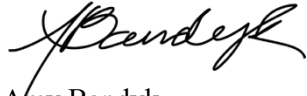
The impact of these programs is far-reaching. Many of those helped are families struggling to keep their homes and survive some of the harshest winters in the country. This funding helps Michiganders manage their electric and gas bills, avoiding mounting utility debt. Because uncollectible debt will ultimately be redistributed to consumers with the ability to pay, allowing that debt to grow will drive up the already-ballooning costs of energy. As noted above, LIHEAP also helps families without the convenience of natural gas lines keep their propane tanks full and their wood stoves burning.

During a time of great inflationary pressure that has already created uncertainty for Michigan families, eliminating LIHEAP would have devastating consequences for our state. Without this support, energy insecurity will rise sharply, leading to increased health and safety risks. These impacts will be particularly damaging to young children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic illnesses. Moreover, local utilities

and social service agencies will be overwhelmed by the surge in need, placing additional strain on already stretched community resources.

We urge you to continue supporting LIHEAP. Protecting this program is a matter of dignity, health, and well-being for families in every region of our state. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Bandyk", with a stylized, cursive script.

Amy Bandyk
Executive Director
Citizens Utility Board of Michigan
(248) 385-3167