

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As you begin developing additional legislation to help Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and remedy a long-standing inequality in the distribution of LIHEAP funds.

LIHEAP is America's primary heating and cooling assistance program. It affords eligible households, especially those sheltering elderly, disabled, or preschoolers, an opportunity to secure life-saving help. However, due to language overriding LIHEAP's statutorily-specified allocation process, residents in our state and others around the country are deprived of their fair share of these critical resources.

We appreciate the \$900 million in LIHEAP funding you included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, but the demand for utility assistance was high prior to the pandemic and is now spiking with many new households facing recent unemployment. Temperatures are rising quickly in Arizona, and as many Arizonans are at home due to COVID-19, they will need to cool their homes to protect their families from the extreme summer heat conditions. LIHEAP funds can provide a much-needed lifeline to our vulnerable populations, so they do not have to choose between paying their utility bill and buying necessary provisions for their family.

The effect of current overriding language remains profoundly damaging. While one advantaged state is capable of serving half of its LIHEAP-eligible households, Arizona continues to reach just four percent of at-risk households. This means some of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens will continue to be subjected to extreme weather conditions until funding is distributed fairly.

We thank you for your commitment to protecting Americans during this pandemic. The LIHEAP program is well-positioned to quickly respond to and support the needs of millions of American households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Going forward, we urge that you include supplemental LIHEAP funds in upcoming legislation and allocate funds with greater conformity to LIHEAP's enabling law to more accurately represent the energy needs of all Americans and does not disproportionately favor heating needs over cooling needs.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to support this important program in this time of crisis.

Sincerely,



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Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senator



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Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator



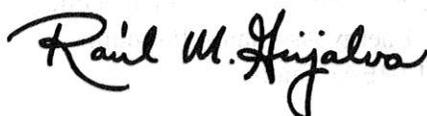
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David Schweikert  
U.S. Representative



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Ann Kirkpatrick  
U.S. Representative



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. Representative



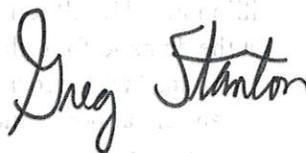
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
U.S. Representative



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Debbie Lesko  
U.S. Representative



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Greg Stanton  
U.S. Representative



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Ruben Gallego  
U.S. Representative



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Tom O'Halleran  
U.S. Representative