July 9, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA), I urge you to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at $5.1 billion in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY21 appropriations bill.

PMAA is a federation of 47 state and regional trade associations representing 8,000 independent fuel marketers nationwide. PMAA member companies’ market over 95 percent of the heating fuel sold in the United States. Heating fuel dealers are mostly small, second and third generation family-owned businesses who provide both fuel supply and service for heating fuel equipment for millions of customers nationwide. Thus, they are on the front lines every winter day to make sure their customers stay warm, by having reliable fuel and equipment services.

Unfortunately, the amount currently appropriated for LIHEAP is inadequate to cover the millions of people who normally rely on LIHEAP as well as millions more who have fallen on hard times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, PMAA urges Congress to appropriate a minimum of $5.1 billion in LIHEAP funding as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY21 appropriations bill. This is a critical issue facing state governments, heating fuel dealers and most especially the consumers in need of LIHEAP funding.

Sincerely,

Rob Underwood
PMAA President