



Monroe County Legislature

CALVIN LEE, JR.
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 25

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LEGISLATOR-DISTRICT 25
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RES. 585-452-8920
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December 13, 2004

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No. 040460
Not to be removed from the Office of the COMMITTEES Legislative of Transportation Monroe County at Large Public Safety Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the Congress of the United States to Approve \$600 Million in Addition Home Energy Assistance Funds

Honorable Legislators:

Each winter, thousands of households in Monroe County receive assistance through the federally-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In 2003-2004, more than 43,000 local households were classified as regular recipients of HEAP (as it is called in New York), while nearly 10,000 additional households were granted emergency aid, often to cover the cost of furnace repairs.

These numbers are not likely to decline in 2004-2005, since international events and their economic consequences ensure that Americans will suffer sharp increases in gas and electric bills. In fact, local HEAP officials expect the number of regular recipients to surpass 50,000.

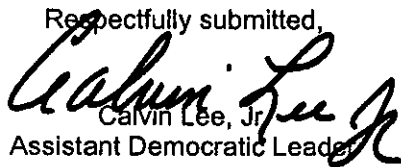
And according to projections by the US Energy Information Administration, heating oil costs could soar more than 30 percent in the near term. This will particularly affect utility customers in northeastern states, including New York.

At present, the US Congress is considering an appropriations bill of just under \$2 billion for LIHEAP. However, a consortium of officials and community leaders from northeastern and Midwestern states is asking for an additional \$600 million to meet anticipated increases in requests for HEAP assistance.

Tens of millions of Americans live in regions where sub temperatures are the norm for much of the coming season, and so adequate household heating is a basic service and even a requisite for survival. Annually in the United States, as many as 700 deaths are attributed to lack of protection against the elements of winter weather.

Therefore, I ask that all members of this Honorable Body join me in memorializing the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to grant requests for an additional \$600 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Please forward this message to the appropriate officers, as designated. This request does not have direct implications for the revenues or expenditures of the 2005 Monroe County budget, although an affirmative response may result in increased grant-based funding for the Monroe County HEAP program.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Democratic Leader