



# FLORIDA ENERGY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

*"Public, private and nonprofit organizations partnering to make energy more affordable for low-to-moderate income Floridians"*

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The Salvation Army

Tampa Electric Company

Florida Public Service

Commission (Advisor)

December 11, 2007

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Re: FY 2008 LIHEAP funding – Senator Dole's letter

Dear Senator Nelson:

The **Florida Energy Affordability Coalition (FLEAC)** brings together public, private and nonprofit sector organizations seeking to make energy more affordable for low-to-moderate income Floridians. FLEAC's mission is to facilitate assistance to improve the well being of families experiencing difficulty paying for energy needed to maintain a safe and healthy living environment.

As you know, Congress and The White House are currently considering several FY 2008 funding proposals for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). A recent proposal, as offered by Senator Elizabeth Dole in her December 10, 2007 letter, recommends that any additional LIHEAP funding over FY 2007 levels be split evenly between base and contingency (emergency) funding.

**FLEAC strongly endorses Senator Dole's proposal, and urges you to sign her letter.**

The member organizations of FLEAC work closely with many Florida families, and we see - on a daily basis - the sacrifices these families must make hard choices regarding the most basic necessities of life. We urge you, on behalf of these Florida households, to sign Senator Dole's letter. Her proposal, if implemented, will significantly increase Florida's LIHEAP funding, and thousands of Florida families will receive help that otherwise would not. Such funding will help them to meet their basic life needs.

While Congress faces so many budget challenges for FY 2008, please keep in mind the basic daily living requirements of Florida's low-income and elderly households. While Senator Dole's proposal does not ensure that all Florida families will be helped, it will mean that many more thousands of families will receive help in 2008.

Sincerely,

Louis Gonzalez  
Chairperson

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## Florida Energy Affordability Coalition

9250 West Flagler Street, Suite 6637, Miami FL 33174

Phone: (305) 552-3274 Website: [www.FLEAC.net](http://www.FLEAC.net)