

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

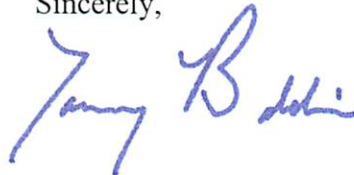
Rural homeowners across Wisconsin are experiencing crisis conditions due to the propane supply shortage and resulting price hikes in the Midwest. In light of the propane emergency and the disproportionate impact of high prices on low-income Wisconsinites, I write today to urge the Department of Health and Human Services to immediately release Wisconsin's share of the remaining Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds.

Wisconsin is in the midst of a bitterly cold winter. On top of the normal heating cost increases that come along with arctic temperatures, rural families and business owners have struggled to find the next load of propane fuel to keep warm. As fuel has become scarce, the price of propane has risen from \$2.20 per gallon at the beginning of January to over \$6 per gallon in just three weeks.

Once released, the remaining LIHEAP allocation could rapidly be deployed in Wisconsin to aid families who are struggling with the impacts of this shortage. This extraordinary situation requires immediate action, and I request that the Department of Health and Human Services distribute remaining LIHEAP funds to the families in Wisconsin that urgently need assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this critical situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Baldwin".

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator