

**Omaha, NE** - Representative Lee Terry (NE-02) today announced Nebraska will receive \$980,262 in emergency contingency funds to help families in need pay heating and energy bills this winter. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families administer these funds through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

**"These funds will help many Nebraska families heat their homes this winter," Terry said. "With natural gas prices reaching historic highs, we can pray for a warm January, but the reality is these funds are necessary to assist those who need it the most. While the funds help, I continue to urge the companies who are enjoying record profits to help those who need assistance with high-energy costs.**

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In addition, the federal government has an additional \$101 million nationwide, which remains available through the emergency contingency fund.

Individuals interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency. For more information, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/liheap/> or

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/liheap/brochure.html>

In November 2005, Terry asked the CEOs of the 's top natural gas producers to create of a voluntary, privately administered program that would distribute funds directly to utility companies' low-income assistance programs.

Natural gas heats up to 85% of the homes in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. The price of natural gas has more than doubled in the last year. In January of 2005, prices were at \$6 per MMBtu and have been over \$15 per MMBtu in December 2005. Currently the cost of natural gas in the is around \$10 per MMBtu.

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