

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2012

Secretary Dr. Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

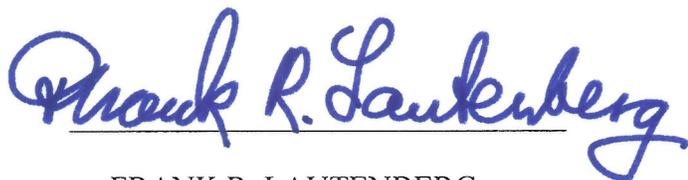
We are writing to ask that you reconsider your decision to allocate New Jersey no funding in fiscal year 2012 under the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). This critical program helps create jobs and lower energy bills for thousands of low-income families in New Jersey. While we understand your decision is grounded in the facts that funding is scarce and that the State of New Jersey still has not spent nearly half of its WAP Recovery Act funding over the past two and half years, we believe our low-income constituents should not be punished because of the state's shortcomings.

As you know, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act allocated New Jersey \$118 million in WAP funding in 2009. In 2010, we became concerned that the state was not using this money quickly enough. Then, in October 2011, we asked you to extend the deadline for spending this money beyond March 2012 because the state had still failed to spend most of its Recovery Act weatherization funding. In December, you graciously granted this extension, something for which we remain grateful.

Weatherizing homes creates jobs, lowers energy bills for New Jersey families, and keeps them comfortable in their homes. WAP saves the average household more than \$430 per year on their energy bills. It also creates well-paying jobs for local contractors, non-profit energy service providers, and companies that make insulation and other energy-saving technology. Since 2009, the WAP program has created over 2,400 direct jobs in New Jersey.

We understand that you are faced with reduced overall weatherization funding and you have therefore decided to only allocate WAP dollars to states that do not have significant Recovery Act weatherization dollars remaining to spend. While we understand your dilemma, we ask that, for the sake of low income residents and the economic health of our state, you reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG



ROBERT MENENDEZ