

TOWN OF SOMERS

600 Main Street
P.O. Box 308
Somers, Connecticut 06071
www.somersct.gov

TEL. (860) 763-8200
FAX (860) 763-8228

FIRST SELECTMAN
Lisa Pellegrini

SELECTMAN
Kathleen Devlin
Bud Knorr

September 26, 2011

To: Appropriations, Energy and Technology and Human Services Committees

From: Lisa Pellegrini, Town of Somers



Re: Energy Assistance Program Funding

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Lisa Pellegrini and I serve as First Selectman of the Town of Somers. I appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony discussing reduced funding to the Energy Assistance Program.

The aid from the Energy Assistance Program funding is vital to the neediest individuals in the Town of Somers. During the 2010-2011 energy season 175 Somers household were approved for and received \$97,965.81 in energy assistance. We expect the need to be even greater this coming winter due to the poor economy and the rising number of income eligible households. Residents receiving the energy assistance were comprised of families with small children and the elderly and infirm. Such a reduction in assistance directly on the heels of the largest tax increase in the State of Connecticut, in a job poor economy and at a time in which gas and oil prices are skyrocketing will only create serious hardship and possibly permanent consequence to the most needy of residences.

I urge the State of Connecticut to think twice about reducing the funding.