

Patricia J Wrice, chair  
Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB)

September 25, 2013

Good afternoon chairs and members of the Appropriations, Energy and Technology, and Human Services Committees. My name is Patricia Wrice; I am executive director of Operation Fuel and Chair of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB). The State of Connecticut established a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sec.16a-41b, to assist the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social services in the planning, development, implementation and coordination of energy assistance-related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies. The Board advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding the impact of utility rates and policies.

At its August 7, 2013 Board meeting members of LIEAB reviewed the 2013-2014 draft CEAP Plan with the board's following recommendations incorporated.

The plan maintains last year's eligibility and asset limits.

The plan uses a standard benefits structure.

Children under six years of will continue to be treated as vulnerable.

Crisis and safety net benefits will be increased by \$10 each.

Risk assessment disposable income will be increased from \$800 to \$1,000.

Approximately 100-200 additional households will eligible for benefits as a result of this increase.

Zero income households will no longer need to verify that they are not receiving unemployment compensation.

Vendors are prohibited from requiring a credit check as a condition of fuel delivery.

The draft 2014 CEAP Plan with the CEAP recommendations was accepted unanimously.

The board also extends its compliments to Charles Anderson for his assistance and support.

We believe that this represents a fair plan given the uncertainty around the federal budget.

Thank you