

DAN BENISHEK M.D.
FIRST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

January 24, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, large portions of the United States, including Michigan's First Congressional District, have been experiencing extreme cold and hazardous winter weather conditions for the past several weeks. While Northern Michiganders like myself are certainly no strangers to cold winters, a variety of factors have culminated in a spike in propane and home heating oil prices that threaten to leave many of my constituents vulnerable to the freezing temperatures.

On January 10, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder issued an Executive Order that suspended state and federal regulations relating to hours-of-service for motor carriers and drivers transporting heating oil and propane within Michigan.

While I greatly appreciate Gov. Snyder's efforts to ensure the delivery of the much-needed fuel is addressed, unfortunately, the price of propane continues to rise to record levels. Prices in some areas of Northern Michigan have jumped to over \$6.00/gal, compared to a retail price of under \$2.00/gal widely available only weeks ago. Many families and seniors in Northern Michigan are now finding themselves unable to pay for minimum fill orders.

Like you, I feel that working families and seniors should not have to choose between heat and food in cold winter months. It is my hope that you will work to ensure adequate Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) emergency contingency funds are available to all areas in need during this time.

I appreciate your urgent attention to this matter, and am willing and able to work directly with you on this issue. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at (202)225-4735.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Benishek".

Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress
Michigan's First District