

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0705

March 4, 2011

Mr. Rex W. Tillerson
Chairman and CEO
ExxonMobil Corporation
5959 Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039-2298

Mr. John S. Watson
Chairman and CEO
Chevron Corporation
6001 Bollinger Canyon Rd.
San Ramon, CA 94583

Mr. Marvin E. Odum
President
Shell Oil Company
P.O. Box 2463
Houston, TX 7752

Mr. James J. Mulva
Chairman and CEO
ConocoPhillips Company
P.O. Box 2197
Houston, TX 77252-2197

Mr. Lamar McKay
Chairman and President
BP America, Inc.
501 Westlake Park Blvd.
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Sirs,

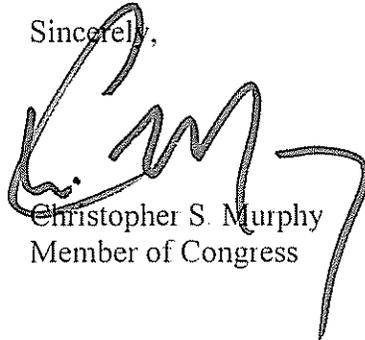
I am writing today to ask for your help in meeting the growing demand for need-based home heating assistance in cold weather states. The rapid rise in retail petroleum prices, coupled with a sluggish economic recovery and an especially harsh winter, has forced many families in states like mine to seek out additional assistance when it comes to paying their heating bills. As leaders of the five largest oil and gas companies operating in the United States, I'm hoping you'll be able to help keep struggling families from going cold this winter.

In my home state of Connecticut, things have grown especially dire this winter. In my district and across the state, average home heating oil prices are up nearly a dollar per gallon since the beginning of the heating season, a price increase of nearly one-third. 52 percent of households in Connecticut use home heating oil, making it the largest energy source for home heating in the state by far.

Just as alarming, many of the safety net programs that lower-income Connecticut residents rely on during the winter simply can't keep pace with demand this season. For the first time in its 34-year history, Operation Fuel, the statewide energy assistance non-profit, was forced to stop accepting applications for new aid at the end of February. During the last week of January this year, Operation Fuel's fuel banks processed more applications than they did for the entire month of January 2010. Despite full- or near-full funding of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) over the last several years, the program will only be able to cover only about half of home heating costs for the average low-income household this season. At the same time, the program will serve a record-breaking estimated 8.9 million households nationally.

Put simply, my constituents and others like them are suffering this winter. While state agencies and non-profits do their best to stretch available assistance dollars as far as possible, I am hopeful that your companies can lend a hand and help us weather this especially-difficult winter heating season. Reports have indicated that your companies have enjoyed substantial and sustained profits in recent years, suggesting that you have significant capital available to fund this limited and much-needed assistance. As concerned corporate citizens, I know you share my concern for millions of American families struggling during this cold winter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Murphy', written over the printed name and title.

Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress