



## Mid America Assistance Coalition

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January 3, 2014

Office of Governor Jay Nixon  
Attn: John Watson, Chief of Staff  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Watson:

This letter is in regard to Utilicare Funding. Again this year there been a reduction in funding for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP. However, the need continues to be greater than ever.

Individuals who have never sought help are now struggling just trying to provide for their families and to survive. The largest growing sectors requesting assistance are our state's Veterans and the elderly on fixed incomes.

Thousands of Missourians are struggling to pay their utility bills. Need in Missouri has continued to grow while funding has diminished dramatically.

- Over the past seven years, LIHEAP funding for Missouri has been reduced from \$107 million in 2007 to a projected \$64 million in fiscal 2014.
- In 2007, 124,000 households received assistance; in 2013 this number increased to approximately 145,000 households.
- Our nonprofit and faith based social service agencies are serving more needy families with less, while the need per home is increasing. This is a troubling trend for the growing number of those in need.

We are asking Governor Nixon and the Legislature of Missouri to appropriate \$10 million for Utilicare to assist those facing hardship. Missouri's Utilicare is a stop-gap for the elderly, disabled and income-qualified Missourians to assist them with their winter utility bills.

We would appreciate your support to fund the Utilicare program through a supplemental appropriation. All Missourians deserve the right to be warm in the winter. Thank you.

John Rich  
Executive Director  
Mid America Assistance Coalition

### Our Mission

To strengthen the social service community through information systems, training, and advocacy

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