

CAPITOL OFFICE

201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 236
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Telephone: (573) 751-2689
E-Mail: Jeff.Porter@house.mo.gov



COMMITTEES

Vice Chair - Insurance

Vice Chair - Transportation

Special Committee on Homeland Security

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oversight

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JEFF PORTER

State Representative
District 42

March 31, 2021

Governor Michael L. Parson
Capitol Building, Room 216
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Request for Immediate Financial Support to the Communities Faced with Unprecedented Energy Bills

Honorable Governor Parson,

On behalf of all the included signatures, we write today for your acknowledgement of this ongoing issue, and in addition, to request immediate action to provide financial support for the constituents, communities and public institutions that relied on natural gas for heat during a record-breaking cold, harsh winter weather stretch.

As you are well aware, in February 2021 winter weather crippled our great State of Missouri when it devastated us with dangerously low Arctic-like temperatures, snow and ice for an extended period. Consequently, the increased energy demand paired with natural gas supply constraints during that time, significantly influenced the price of wholesale natural gas and electricity.

Unfortunately, Missouri residents and their hometown utilities are now faced with this massive increase in the cost of wholesale energy prices, and are looking at unaffordable natural gas and electric bills that must be paid in full – in less than one month. In detail, 40 natural gas utilities and 86 hometown, citizen-led electric utilities are subject to these exorbitant price increases. They are currently burdening the weight of how to pay this increase by either depleting reserves, causing long-term liquidity and credit issues, or passing these dramatic bill increases directly to customers in one-time monthly bill. Neither option readies customers, or their communities to begin the recovery needed coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, we would like to suggest a solution to work with you to ensure that communities that rely on hometown natural gas and electric utilities find prompt relief from the crisis. We propose setting aside \$50 million, to start, for these citizen-led utilities to borrow against at 0% interest for up to 5 years. This will allow not-for-profit, consumer-directed utilities – 40 natural gas and 86 electric hometown utilities in the State – the capital necessary to pay these historic, one-time wholesale bills, and recover the costs by spreading out the impact on residents and businesses without hitting them with a one-month lump sum bill. All funds lent would be recovered and paid back in full to the State.

It should be noted that surrounding States in the Midwest – such as Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota, who were also impacted by this severe weather crisis, are already implementing similar programs to help

mitigate the cost impact to consumers where the borrowed funds will be paid back in full over an agreed length of time. Missourians, especially any low-income households, seniors, and veterans whose livelihoods are solely dependent on fixed-incomes, should not have worries about not being able to afford daily necessities like food and medicine, due to unprecedented heating bills.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that natural gas remains an affordable energy choice for the thousands of Missouri families, farmers and businesses, now and in the future. We stand ready to assist you in any way possible and appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincere regards,

Jeff Porter
State Representative
District 42

Representative Signature and District #

Lee Falkow #10

Krista Greeng #51

Don Bush #3

Patricia Fike #126

~~Jeff Porter~~ #154

~~Wayne~~ #147

Paul #52

Andrew McDaniel #150

Carla #54

Dorcas Hamer #65

Tony #53

Mike #106

Jeff #129

Brenda #11

Nancy #59

Amy #4

Ann Kelley #127

John #103

Bridget Walsh Moore #93

John #69

Kate #30

Herman Morse #151

Art Brown #14

Ray Rabbe #8

ing B5

Dave

Paul A. Gredal #143

John #12

Jim Kalkreuth #125

Walter #116

Willard Haley #58

Lucy & Dege #140

Ed. P. 40

John 120

Dave Gifford #60

Franklin 131

W. H. #122

W. H. 07

Ala. Riley #134

Tony McGee #88

Janni Burgin 148

Captal Grader 132

R. Phil 102

Mike 46

Wanda 104

Judith 83

Babara f. P. 90

Emily Weber 24

C. A. #135

Paula Brown 70

Ashley Blane M - 26

Ashley Anne 14

Jim Donly - 99

Joe Nolan 86

Peggy McLaughlin R-39

Malcolm Brown #95

John Blum R-137

Cheri Joalson Reisch #44

Tim Finn 49

Travis Smith 155

Harold Billington

Gray Tubel 136

Mike Henderson 117

Beck Francis #145

Ryszard Black #7

Janet Kelly #141

Chris Jenkins #144

Alan Dinkler #61

Samuel Pollock 123

Chris 160

Chris #63

Bennie Cook #142

Don Ross #149

Scott Cypers #158

J. Spada #2

Charles R. Szyja #47

Cynthia Cady #115

Lois #48

Alan Tansbach #9

Dan Maul #113

Rodger L. Reedy #57

Bob Bromley #162

Jared #139

Becky Litch #114

#33

John M. Jones #109 F.C.

Mik #55

Kent Haden #87 43

Mike McEl 118 J R 82nd

Lai Donna April beam 71 David Burnett 19

Don Fry #31 Allen Andrews #1

Jeff Colman #32 Robert Miller #21

Marcus Dorman 62 Ruth Ross #110

Brian D. Sel 156th Michael L. Johnson 23rd

Jan R. Fawcett 13th J. J. #21

~~John D. 38th~~

John D. 84th

W. A. Gray 36th

Al Ray 81st

Annette M. Tunbauge 37th

Michael Pearson 74th

Jeff Smith 67th

Alan Gray 75

~~John D. #17~~

Ed Lewis #6