Before this last winter, I was making a decent enough wage so that I could meet all of my needs without much issue. With the energy prices increasing and the increased rates of energy costs in our state, without assistance, it will be difficult for my family and many other families this winter in regards to keeping the lights on. While I am fortunate that my landlord covers the heating costs, the electric bill alone has nearly doubled with the last few rate increases passed here in Maine. I am having to apply for liheap and I know of several others in a similar position. It is a trying time to be a resident of the state of Maine. I am also aware of possible rate increases proposed by the energy companies in the state and I feel all it will do is lead to more families being forced to make very hard heating choices this winter and into the New Year. We are all people trying hard to survive in this state. Hopefully we can get the assistance we desperately need to continue living and thriving here in Maine.

Respectfully,

A longtime bangor maine resident