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**Congress
of the
United States
House of Representatives**

**JOHN F. TIERNEY
MASSACHUSETTS
SIXTH DISTRICT**



2001 MAR 19 A 11: 35

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

March 12, 2001

D. Margaret Drury
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Thank you for contacting me, on behalf of the Cambridge City Council, regarding the current oil/energy situation and its effect on Massachusetts. I appreciated the opportunity to read the Council's resolution on this matter, and I am pleased to outline below the steps my office and I have been taking. I am hopeful you will please share this letter with the Council and convey my sincere thanks for its efforts.

I have been working since the initial heating oil crisis in 1999 to devise strategies to address the high oil prices that continue to plague New England. I, along with several of my colleagues from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, met several times with then-Energy Secretary Bill Richardson on the matter, and I held an informational hearing at Peabody City Hall at which representatives of the oil industry and state and federal regulators detailed the causes of the oil crisis and the steps consumers can take to access assistance.

Last September, I sent a letter to former President Clinton asking him to release some oil on a temporary basis from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), immediately provide \$400 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds, and to continue pressing OPEC and other foreign and domestic producers to increase production.

This letter went to the President signed by 114 bipartisan Members of Congress, many of them prominent Republicans, including Charles Bass of New Hampshire, Ben Gilman and Rick Lazio of New York, Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, and Connie Morella of Maryland. The President responded quickly by releasing the LIHEAP funding and swapping oil from the SPR both for the country and for the families, seniors and small businesses who desperately needed help.

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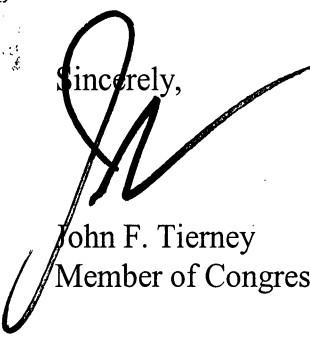
In the Interior Appropriations process for FY2001, I joined several colleagues to request an additional \$4 million to fund the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. Recognizing the severity of the heating oil situation in the Northeast, the Interior Appropriations Committee doubled our funding request for the reserve to \$8 million. In funding the reserve, Congress took another necessary step to provide Massachusetts and New England citizens a degree of protection against both an oil shortage and skyrocketing prices. This measure was signed into law by President Clinton last October.

Most recently, I joined 35 Members of Congress in signing a letter to President Bush requesting an emergency supplemental appropriation for LIHEAP in fiscal year 2002 and advanced funding for fiscal year 2003 as well as immediate release of all 2 million barrels of oil from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. To date, we have not received a response to these requests.

Combined, these efforts have only begun to address the long-term energy needs of Massachusetts and the region. Please know that I continue to fight for appropriate levels of funding for LIHEAP and other programs that provide energy assistance to our citizens. In addition, I continue to work with like-minded colleagues to formulate an improved national energy policy that is cheaper, cleaner, and more sustainable than that which prevails today. While past administrations and past Congresses have taken some steps in the right direction by advocating cleaner, safer forms of energy and somewhat more stringent regulations, I believe we as a nation have a long way to go on the matter. As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee of Energy Policy, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs of the House Government Reform Committee, I hope to raise these issues throughout the 107th Congress.

Again, I thank you for contacting me and for all the work you do for the people of Cambridge.

Sincerely,



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

JFT/ds

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Consent Communication #6

A communication was received from Representative John F. Tierney, in response to the City Council resolution on the current oil/energy situation and its effect on Massachusetts.

In City Council April 2, 2001

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