EXHIBIT 18
DATE 1-31-07
HB 2

January 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

I am unable to attend the committee meetings, so have offered to write this letter to encourage you to continue to support the funding of the Weatherization and the Low Income Energy Assistance Programs.

My husband, Ken, a University graduate with high honors and a University Associate in the Social Work program, was 57 years old and at the height of his professional career when he suffered a severe stroke and was left with significant cognitive damage. He could not return to the working world.

This is not the venue to explain how dramatically our lives have been affected, however, I think if is appropriate to say I also have attended the University and have spent much of my adult life in white-collar work outside the home. Now I am Ken's only caretaker. It is a demanding role and I feel I have only limited (I do work part-time) time – and energy for working away from home. Consequently, we have a very limited income.

We live quite frugally and "dress for the weather' AND the assistance we have received from the Weatherization program and LIEAP have helped us maintain a relatively warm and comfortable environment in our home, particularly when Ken is often house-bound.

It is humbling not to be independent. We don't take this assistance for granted and are very grateful. I wish to impress on you how much this help can mean in people's lives. Thank you for your attention.

Most Sincerely,

Linda and Ken Bernstein
Missoula MT

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JAN 24 2007