EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMERCE COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(on leave)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2107

2108 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–2107
(202) 225–2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:
5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(781) 396–2900

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
(508) 875–2900

COSPONSOR H.R. 683
THE "EMERGENCY ENERGY RESPONSE ACT OF 2001"
February 26, 2001

Dear Colleague:

Energy costs are especially high this year, with early projections are for natural gas bills at least 70% higher, heating oil and propane increases of 40%-100%. Natural gas prices and tight capacity around the country also are driving up electricity prices. As a result, applications for energy assistance have increased dramatically this year and most states have already depleted LIHEAP and Weatherization funds. This means that the summer cooling season will be unfunded at the current level. We have introduced H.R. 683, the "Emergency Energy Reponse Act of 2001" as an initial, emergency response to the current energy crisis. This bill would:

- Increase the LIHEAP base authorization to $3.4 billion for FY01-FY05. The base funding has been relatively flat at $2 billion since the mid-1980's and needs to be substantially increased to meet today's energy needs.

- Increases Weatherization authorization to $310 million for FY01-05, currently "such sums as may be necessary." Current appropriation is at $162 million, down from $300 million in the mid-1980's. A one-time investment in weatherization yields savings of $300-$470 per household annually thereafter.

- Increases the authorization for State Energy Conservation grants to $75 million for FY01-05. This program funds state conservation and emergency planning. The low level of funding in recent years has diminished the states' ability to plan for emergencies and to take pre-emptive action.

- Improves the federal government's energy efficiency by requiring federal facility managers to evaluate opportunities for energy and water efficiency improvements and opportunities for siting renewable projects. Federal agencies spend $4 billion per year to heat, cool and power facilities. Improving federal energy efficiency will save taxpayer dollars and reduce energy and water usage.

We hope you will join in cosponsoring this legislation. If you would like to cosponsor, please contact Jeff Duncan (Rep. Markey) at x52836 or at jeff.duncan@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Ed Markey

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Mar Frost

Martin Frost
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER