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

January 28, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I am writing to express my strong belief that we should broaden the stimulus package to include additional measures that will help America's seniors.

I would like to applaud you for your leadership in brokering a bipartisan stimulus package with Minority Leader Boehner and the White House. The legislation will provide a needed boost to our economy, and it will help millions of hard-working families. However, the present stimulus plan does not address the needs of millions of senior citizens who are also struggling. I urge you to add provisions to aid seniors who rely on fixed Social Security income, and also to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which will help seniors and others.

There are millions of senior citizens across this country who live month-to-month on the Social Security benefits they have earned. For most, rising prices for food and fuel will add an extra burden to an already stretched budget. With the cost of heating oil rising dramatically this winter, some may be forced to choose between buying groceries and heating their homes.

By providing the minimum \$300 rebate to those seniors who depend on Social Security and do not pay income taxes, Congress will make life a little easier for these seniors. If we fully fund LIHEAP at its authorized level of \$5.1 billion by adding \$3.62 billion for the program, we may be able to ensure that even when times are extremely tough, the heat will stay on in the homes of our seniors.

Thank you for working to provide help to those who need it most, and for your leadership on this and so many other issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Shea-Porter".

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress