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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Urges Missourians to “Help-Heat-Mo”**

*Urges for lawmakers to provide more money for energy assistance*

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today extended his call for a special legislative session by encouraging Missourians to make their voices heard in Jefferson City.

“Last week, I called on Gov. Matt Blunt to convene a special session of the Missouri Legislature to act now on providing critical financial assistance for low-income Missourians during the harshest months of winter,” **Lt. Governor Kinder** said. “Today, I ask my fellow Missourians to support this measure in helping our neighbors by voicing their support at [www.HelpHeatMo.com](http://www.HelpHeatMo.com).”

Lt. Governor Kinder has asked Gov. Blunt to hold a special legislative session immediately following the General Election. The special session would ensure that lawmakers can act early in providing millions in supplemental funds for LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance Program.)

The supplemental Utilicare funds are normally taken up when the General Assembly convenes in January. Lt. Governor Kinder urged Gov. Blunt to act now to ensure the funds were available for Missouri seniors and low-income citizens before the harshest months of winter.

LIHEAP funding is distributed and facilitated through Missouri’s Community Action Agencies

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“Missouri’s community action agencies work with families every day who have to decide whether to pay to heat their homes or for other essentials such as food or medical care,” said **Jean Barham**, Executive Director of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation and President of MACA. “With costs anticipated to rise again, even more families are going to end up seeking services such as LIHEAP or Weatherization out of necessity. Anything that our legislature can do to address the needs of these families before they become a crisis should be a priority.”

Lt. Governor Kinder has also asked that additional funding be provided for weatherization programs. Missouri’s weatherization programs have continued to reduce energy usage and costs for Missourians. Lt. Governor Kinder and a group of legislators last week called for Missouri to be a leader in energy efficiency and stabilizing costs.

Lt. Governor Kinder has praised utilities in Missouri who have lead the way on weatherization programs, and he encouraged the state to start investing more in energy efficiency. The additional funding invested in weatherizing would help Missouri homeowners save energy and to save money in the years to come.

“The majority of Missourians use natural gas and propane to heat their homes and those commodities have experienced extreme volatility this summer,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “We cannot afford to forget the lessons we have learned from energy prices over the past year. I am asking all Missourians to encourage their legislators to support this cause in helping those in need during the coming winter months.”

Lt. Governor Kinder encouraged citizens to voice their support by signing the online petition at [www.HelpHeatMo.com](http://www.HelpHeatMo.com).

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