

STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25  
EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF ENERGY EMERGENCY

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WHEREAS, in recent months, energy rates have reached record high levels; and

WHEREAS, indications are that energy rates will continue at these high or even higher levels – levels that are simply not affordable to some; and

WHEREAS, the cold winter months have arrived, and, in order to stay warm, Montana families, of necessity, will consume more energy than they consume in summer months; and

WHEREAS, to date, applications to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are running ten per cent (10%) ahead of last year and up to twenty per cent (20%) ahead on some of our Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, Congress recently failed to approve increased federal funding to help needy families heat their homes this winter through LIHEAP, leaving Montanans with the same levels of federal LIHEAP funding they had last year despite record high energy prices and record applications for LIHEAP assistance; and

WHEREAS, emergency LIHEAP funds have not been released by the federal government which would help address the crisis; and

WHEREAS, many Montanans, due to lack of financial resources, will be facing critical choices between paying their utility bills and paying for needed health care, including prescription drugs, paying to put food on their tables, and paying for other basic life necessities; and

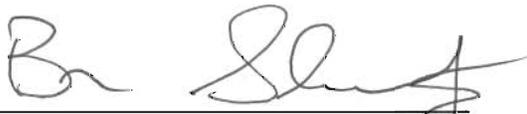
WHEREAS, the State of Montana is committed to responding to the emergency critical needs of vulnerable Montanans in the face of the energy crisis that exists in this state and this nation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 90-4-310, MCA, a situation exists that threatens to seriously disrupt or diminish energy supplies to the extent that the life, health, or property of those Montanans in greatest need of financial energy assistance may be jeopardized; and

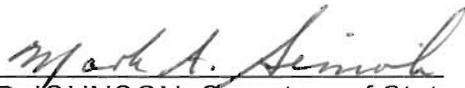
WHEREAS, pursuant to § 90-4-318, MCA, when an energy emergency is declared by the Governor and emergency expenditures are justified, the Governor may authorize expenditures from the general fund, in the amount necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution of the State of Montana, Title 90, chapter 4, part 3, MCA, and other applicable statutes, do hereby declare a state of energy emergency and do hereby, further, authorize the expenditure of up to \$2.5 million from the general fund by the Department of Public Health and Human Services for Low Income Energy Assistance. None of these funds are to be used for administrative expenses and, if federal funds above the \$14,351,000 Montana anticipates are realized, general funds will be returned to the state treasury at a one to one ratio.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year Two Thousand and Five, A.D.

  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:

  
for BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State