



NEWS

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
EEI – DANI MARX, (202) 508-5130
IBEW – MATT SPENCE, (202) 728-6014**

Senators Susan Collins and Jack Reed Receive John D. Dingell Award

WASHINGTON (March 16, 2026) — The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) today presented the John D. Dingell Award to Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed (D-RI) in recognition of their steadfast support for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This critical program provides federal assistance to qualifying customers to help cover their heating and cooling expenses and other costs associated with home energy bills, weatherization, and home energy efficiency improvements.

Senators Collins and Reed led a bipartisan group of 31 lawmakers that called on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to release funds for LIHEAP swiftly and at the highest level possible following a delay in distribution due to the government shutdown in late 2025. This advocacy led to the release of funds for this critical program, which supports more than 6 million U.S. households.

As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins also advanced a \$20 million increase in funding for LIHEAP in the fiscal year 2026 Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. She and Sen. Reed have a history of advocating for LIHEAP, including a push to lead supplemental funding for the program in 2022.

“On behalf of America’s electric companies, we applaud Senators Collins and Reed for championing LIHEAP,” said **EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney**. *“Our members help to connect their customers with this essential program, which alongside company energy assistance programs, is a key pillar that supports customers facing hardships.”*

“Ensuring every American has access to a warm home should be a bipartisan priority, and I commend Sens. Collins and Reed for crossing the aisle to support LIHEAP,” said **IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper**. *“Rising prices are making heating and cooling*

an economic challenge for many families, and thanks to their leadership, LIHEAP is lending those families a helping hand.”

In 2008, EEI and the IBEW came together to create the National Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee (National LAMPAC). National LAMPAC strives to foster collaboration and partnership among electric company executives and IBEW leaders to address the nation’s energy challenges and to achieve the common goals of running a well-managed, efficient business with a safe and highly skilled workforce.

Named for one of the longest-serving members of Congress, the John D. Dingell Award is presented to leaders who exemplify and promote labor-management cooperation and whose efforts have helped to advance the common objectives of the electric power industry and IBEW members.

Mr. Dingell served as Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for many years and amassed an impressive record of bipartisan accomplishments on a wide range of issues, many of which focused on labor-management collaboration.

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EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide safe, reliable electricity for nearly 250 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Collectively, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States and drives economic growth and prosperity. EEI also includes hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) represents approximately 887,000 members and retirees who work in a wide variety of fields, including construction, utilities, manufacturing, telecommunications, broadcasting, railroads, and government.