



2/19/08
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**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS CORPORATION AND
THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT GAS COMPANY**

Raised Bill 5327 – An Act Concerning Utility Service Termination.

Good morning, Senator Fonfara and Representative Fontana and members of the committee, my name is John Dobos and I am Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG). I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to you today in support of Raised Bill 5327 – An Act Concerning Utility Service Termination.

CNG and SCG support placing statutory responsibility on landlords to either give us access to our equipment or to assume responsibility for the payment of utility service to the building. It is intended to reduce uncollectables by allowing us to access meters to perform a shutoff or to undertake a repair. CNG and SCG have approximately 40% of their meters inside the customers' premises. When a customer in a rented facility moves out and company cannot gain access to the meter to shut off the meter, the gas and the heat stay on. Without enactment of this measure, the full costs of un-terminated services become a burden on all of the ratepayers of the company. If landlords wish to maintain service at these premises they can establish a new account for the unit.

The raised bill does have one minor issue, the time frame in line 74 is 10 days after the date of written request and in line 127 the time frame is 7 days after access is requested. CNG and SCG support making both time frames 10 days.

I would like to express our appreciation and support for your work on this issue and advise you that we are available to work with you on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.