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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**February 19, 2008**  
**Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing**

**Testimony of State Representative Carlo Leone**  
**in Support of HB 5327**  
**An Act Concerning Utility Service Termination**

Representative Fontana, Senator Fonfara, Members of the Energy and Technology Committee, For the record my name is State Representative Carlo Leone from the 148<sup>th</sup> District in Stamford.

First I would like to thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to speak here today. I introduced similar legislation last year and the language had made it through the committee process, but ended up getting attached to one of the energy bills that did not pass.

Essentially, this legislation would require *that utility companies notify customers no less than thirty days in writing before they can terminate service to a homeowner*. This bill is needed to give families protection and more adequate notice to be able to prepare for not having power or utility services. This would be especially helpful in the case of families with small children, seniors with special needs, and for anyone with specific power related medical requirements as well as any other citizen who needs to make necessary arrangements for not having power.

This bill proposal is a result of third party falsely attempting to recoup their costs from a broken agreement by *their* client. This third party, from Texas, called the electric company and requested power turned off at the location without any communication to the home owner, and the request was granted by the electric company with out any verification or questions asked. Were it not for my involvement, the power would have been terminated and delays, extra reconnect fees and overall poor customer service relationships were inevitable.

Any homeowner should have peace of mind and should not have to shoulder the burden that any third party can call a power company and terminate electricity without their consent, any communication, or even due diligence by the company to verify the requesting entity is valid, as well as determining that the merits of the request is warranted.

The proposed language is a simple fix to a potentially explosive situation and it was negotiated and agreed to by all parties during the 2007 session. Therefore it is clear that this proposal can once again pass both chambers and should require minimal effort by the committee to forward for the Governors signature as law.

I do appreciate your time and thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I am available at any time and would be more than happy to answer any questions committee members may have.