



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS CORPORATION AND  
THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT GAS COMPANY**

***Raised Bill 5786 – ACC Low Income Heating Assistance***

Good Afternoon, Senator Fonfara and Representative Fontana and members of the Committee, my name is John Dobos and I am Director of Public Affairs and Marketing for the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG). Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Raised Bill 5786 – ACC Low Income Heating Assistance

Energy Assistance is critical to over 33,000 of our residential customers as it assists them in paying their energy bills. Without these energy assistance dollars, many of these families would have to choose between paying their energy bills or paying for other vital necessities including food, medicine, rent or mortgage.

The Community Action Agencies do a fine job in administering the Energy Assistance Program. By starting the program every year in September, they will be able to do an even better job. In 2006, when the program was started early, the households that were heated by utilities received appointments in a timely basis and as a result were informed earlier about the benefits they would be receiving.

Every year more low-income households need weatherization funding and the dollars necessary to provide this support are not always available. By appropriating additional dollars, more households will be weatherized and this will ultimately reduce their energy consumption and lower their bills.

We are all working toward the same goal of helping the neediest citizens of Connecticut.

In conclusion, I would like to express our appreciation and support for your work on these policy issues.

Thank you for your consideration.