



**CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
H.B. 5789 – AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION
PUBLIC HEARINGS – MARCH 7, 2008**

**STATEMENT OF JAY L. KOOPER
ON BEHALF OF HESS CORPORATION**

Good afternoon. My name is Jay Kooper and I am the Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Hess Corporation (“Hess”), a Fortune 100 company and a licensed and active retail supplier of electricity and natural gas to commercial and industrial customers in Connecticut. Hess appears before this Committee today to offer its support for H.B. 5789 because it believes that, on balance, it offers a proactive step in the right direction for providing residential customers an effective tool for accessing the benefits of competitive retail electric markets.

While it should be noted that Hess has historically served commercial and industrial customers, it has been in a period of expansion in terms of product offerings and new customer markets. Specifically, beginning in 2008, Hess is offering in addition to its commodity pricing product line two new programs – the Hess Green Partnership Product and Hess Demand Response Program – that empower customers to access electricity produced by renewable sources of energy and curtail their electric load during peak days and hours of the year and enjoy substantial savings that come with such curtailment. In addition, Hess has increased its participation in municipal aggregation bidding processes such as the ones conducted for the City of Marlborough and the Cape Light Compact in Massachusetts this past year. Hess’ bottom line message to the

Committee today is that municipal aggregation can serve as the gateway for increased customer access, and , in particular, residential customer access, to these Hess products and those provided by our competition.

As for the debate among several stakeholders as to whether a municipal aggregation program should be “opt-in” or “opt-out”, Hess is agnostic. Rather Hess’ position is that whatever the debate, this issue should not serve as a catalyst for delay of municipal aggregation program development and implementation. To borrow a famous phrase in my line of work and probably yours, “the perfect should not be the enemy of the good” with respect to passage of H.B. 5798.

In summary, Hess commends the Committee for its leadership in presenting this legislation and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.