

Re: H.B. 5819

Robin Latta Tweedy  
43 Court Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
March 7, 2008

To: The Energy and Technology Committee:

My elderly (93) and severely demented mother has been living in my home in Branford for the past six years. We are low income since I work part-time to care for her and she has no other resources.

During this time it has been difficult to pay our electricity bills but I still managed (with struggle) to pay them regularly. However, during the course of the last two years, while CL&P has continued to receive rate increases and the cost of living has risen dramatically, our ability to pay our electricity bill in full every month has virtually become impossible.

Our ability to conserve electricity has 'maxed out.' Despite not using our dryer even though my mother is incontinent, despite not having air conditioning in the summer and despite completing the CL&P conservation program, we cannot do anything more to conserve without jeopardizing our ability to survive.

Numerous years ago I used to work for United Illuminating. Along with other consumers, we workers used to hear about various company plans like investing in nuclear energy "that will save consumers money." Nuclear energy did not save consumers money, in fact it cost the consumers more money and harmed the environment. In the almost fifteen years I worked for U.I., I heard a variety of populist company slogans designed to enlist support for company activities that all invariably cost the consumers more money, not the other way around. The history of policies like de-regulation and D.P.U.C. decisions to increase rates all cost the consumers more money.

Concerned also about sustainability, I finally switched to a 'green supplier' when the option became available since there was no other possible means that I understood to have any control over the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity that I pay for. I pay a higher rate for this privilege. However, despite the fact that the source of my electricity comes from wind/water power, our bill has been subject to flat rate hikes based, I am told, on the cost of oil. Not only is this policy unfair, it is inhibitive towards achieving a healthier environment and ultimately towards a sustainable energy policy.

Based on past and current history, it is clear that without legislative action, the people of Connecticut are doomed to the highest electricity costs in the nation and an unsustainable energy policy that hurts the quality of our lives in so many ways. This is unacceptable! The people of Connecticut will not rest until they are heard! Legislate an affordable and sustainable energy policy now!

Sincerely,

Robin Latta Tweedy and Grace Latta