

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
SB NO. 368: AAC THERMAL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 28, 2008

TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL
CHAIRMAN DONALD W. DOWNES

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) recognizes that the primary intent of this Raised Bill is to require the Department to begin regulation of the Hartford Steam Company, the "Hartford Ten", named so since they are the ten companies which supply heating and cooling services to government and private-sector buildings in the Hartford area. There are currently two heating and cooling loops, referred to as the "Downtown Loop" and the "Capitol Area System".

The Department generally supports this proposal and adds the following recommendations. As the language is currently drafted, the definition of "steam transportation company" is overly broad and could encompass more entities than was initially intended. The Department recommends a more narrow definition be incorporated into section 50 and would be willing to work with the Committee and the appropriate parties. More specifically, the Department recommends that since the "Hartford Ten" was created by Special Act that Special Act No. 61-7 be the legislative vehicle in which to establish the intended regulatory control of these entities so as not to extend its regulation to a host of other entities that could potentially fall under the proposed definition.