

Testimony

of

THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

before the

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Re

RAISED SENATE BILL No. 589

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC AND GAS

CUSTOMER DISCOUNT RATE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

HARTFORD, CT

March 7, 2008

Good morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Fontana, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Michael A. Coretto and I am the Senior Director of Regulatory Strategy and Retail Access for The United Illuminating Company. I am here today to testify on **Raised Senate Bill 5897 – An Act Establishing a Residential Electric and Gas Customer Discount Rate.**

The United Illuminating Company (UI), an electric distribution company with general offices in New Haven, CT respectfully submits these comments in support of Raised Senate Bill 589 – An Act Establishing a Residential Electric and Gas Customer Discount Rate. However, UI suggests some modifications to the raised bill to further enhance its effectiveness in assisting low-income customers.

UI suggests that any customer who is receiving service under this discounted rate be required to participate in applicable conservation and load management programs offered by the utility. This supports state energy policy goals and will enable participating customers to reduce their consumption, which, in turn, will reduce the discount amount to be supported by all other customers.

In order that other customers not shoulder a disproportionate burden, as a condition of maintaining eligibility for this discounted rate, a customer should not have a balance on their electric bill of greater than 90 days. This will enable the correct incentive to be in place for customers to maintain their account in good standing in order to receive the discounted rate.