



State of Connecticut

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 6127 AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY DEPOSITS FOR BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, members of the Energy and Technology Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HOUSE BILL 6127 AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY DEPOSITS FOR BUSINESS CUSTOMERS. This bill is very similar to a proposal that I submitted on behalf of one of my constituents.

Current law allows for a utility to charge a deposit of up to 90 days from a new customer. A deposit of three months usage can be a substantial bill for a customer that is only expecting a one month charge. My constituent was caught off guard when her 90 day usage deposit came. It seemed unreasonable that the utility could collect such a large deposit before the business had been in operation for a very short amount of time. When one looks at all of the costs of starting a business, this is an unexpected fee that the customer is not likely be in a position to pay.

As the state reviews policies to help reinvigorate our economy, the General Assembly should be adopting policies that alleviate, not contribute to, the burdens of our small businesses. We know that small businesses are significant drivers of our economy, and a simple change like this will go a long way in helping our business owners an ability to grow during the first few critical months of operation.

I had requested my constituent's presence here to share her story with you today, but unfortunately, the duties of running a small business have kept her from joining us today.

Thank you and I urge a favorable report from this committee.