



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

February 24, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

There are several bills before you that would make significant changes in the electric market. CCM has already testified in support of the standard offer bill (HB 6304) as a mechanism that would provide savings to municipalities and their property taxpayers.

Electric rates have a significant impact on local governments and their property taxpayers. As recently as 2003 municipalities were estimated to have spent about \$100 million for electricity, statewide. In the past four years, that estimate has doubled. Generation rates alone have gone up about 158%.

Energy policy is a very complicated area and there are many bills attempting to address the inherent problems. While it is difficult to ascertain exactly what would be the best solution, one thing is very clear: the present system is not working. As Connecticut continues to fall victim to the vagaries of energy pricing, CCM's members have become increasingly concerned that state leadership is needed on this front.

To ensure the proper statewide policies are crafted and implemented, CCM asks that the committee specifically designate a state entity to be charged to create and implement a comprehensive statewide energy policy.

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If you have any questions, please contact Alejandro Vazquez or Kachina Walsh-Weaver of CCM at (203) 498-3000