



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Energy & Technology Committee--March 10, 2009

**R.B. No. 6632 AAC ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND THE COORDINATION OF ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.**

The proposed bill would create a new state entity called the Energy, Efficiency and Renewables Resource Board. We continue to welcome the type of State oversight this bill seems to desire, however, we oppose this bill because we believe that the proposed changes in oversight will disrupt and adversely impact Connecticut's energy efficiency programs. Connecticut's energy efficiency programs, developed by utilities with oversight by the Energy Conservation and Management Board (which is composed of business and low income constituencies as well as governmental representatives from the Consumer Counsel and Attorney General), and regulated and approved by the DPUC, are nationally recognized for their effectiveness. Numerous studies and evaluations have shown that Connecticut's programs are among the best in the nation at saving customers money. These programs work well and should not be jeopardized by changes in oversight.

To the extent that other energy efficiency programs, such as fuel oil, or renewable programs need changes or improvements, then we suggest the current governmental structure enables those desired results. We note, however, that the oil conservation board was just recently created, and recommend that it should be given some additional time under the present structure before changes are made to its operation.

Further, it seems that every year bills are proposed to change program direction or governance, diverting attention from delivering programs and savings to customers.



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As a result of legislation last session, the Program Review and Investigations Committee considered a concept similar to that in this bill and voted to remove it from its final report. We urge this committee to do the same.

At a time when we may be considering seeking additional funds from the federal stimulus legislation for these programs, now is not the time to make substantive changes to the structure, operation, and implementation of programs which are nationally recognized and effective. We need to work together and focus our attention on ways to get more funding for Connecticut's existing programs under the present structure.

We oppose this bill because it will be detrimental to customers.