



**CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

S.B. 1075 – AN ACT CONCERNING COMPETITIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS

PUBLIC HEARINGS – MARCH 3, 2009

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN B. WEMPLE
ON BEHALF OF CONSOLIDATED EDISON SOLUTIONS, INC.

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Wemple and I am Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, at Consolidated Edison's Competitive Shared Services. I am here today on behalf of Consolidated Edison Solutions, Inc (ConEdison Solutions) which supplies electricity to all customer segments throughout Connecticut as well as Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, and the District of Columbia. ConEdison Solutions also provides a wide range of energy management services including traditional energy efficiency measures as well as price responsive and demand curtailment strategies to commercial and industrial companies.

ConEdison Solutions submits this statement today in support of S.B. 1075 which, if adopted, would allow for more opportunities to provide residential and small commercial customers with competitive offerings that can reduce energy costs as well as provide the opportunity for municipalities to have more control in delivering energy efficiency programs tailored to their residents.

Specifically, Section 1 of this bill would allow competitive suppliers participating in the utility referral programs to offer six month supply contracts. Because a six-month term

can be aligned with the known pricing of the utilities' standard service offering, it enables customers to make an easier comparison of supply options and be able to select those products that will provide clear savings over the term of the contract.

Section 3 of the bill also provides additional flexibility by allowing suppliers to record a customer's telephonic enrollment, which is faster and more cost-effective than the current requirement that mandates use of a third-party verification service. Both options are equally auditable and verifiable and, by allowing for a more efficient enrollment option, S.B. 1075 should reduce consumer costs and attract more competitive suppliers to the Connecticut market.

Finally, Section 2 of the bill would direct the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to hold a proceeding to consider whether to allow municipalities to aggregate their customers for purposes of identifying and providing energy efficiency programs that can be tailored to specific energy needs within that municipality. This approach, which is currently utilized by the Cape Light Compact in Massachusetts, is highly effective and should be considered by Connecticut, along with the ability of those same municipalities to select a competitive electricity supplier for their constituents on an opt-out basis. There are clear and compelling benefits to municipal aggregation as demonstrated by the effective programs in place in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Opt-out municipal aggregation in Connecticut would benefit consumers by enabling municipalities to enter into supply contracts when the price and/or product offering was better than the prevailing Standard Service offering. In addition to reducing customer costs, opt-out aggregation can provide municipalities the additional flexibility to integrate energy efficiency programs into their

procurement strategy or to source a portion of their electricity supply or REC requirements from specific supply resources.

For the reasons expressed above, ConEdison Solutions urges the Committee to expand the scope of S.B. 1075 to also allow the DPUC to consider commodity aggregation on an opt-out basis as well.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ Stephen B. Wemple

Stephen B. Wemple
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs