



**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 17, 2009**

**R.B. No. 1134 AN ACT CREATING THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE STRATEGY BOARD.**

The proposed bill would create a new Energy Independence Strategy Board that would be tasked with developing strategies for taking advantage of opportunities provided pursuant the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We applaud and support this initiative.

As you know, this federal stimulus law provides \$787 billion in total, with \$308 billion in appropriations, \$267 billion in direct spending, and \$212 billion tax relief. Many of the funds related to energy come from programs administered by the Department of Energy, but there may be additional efficiency opportunities in other titles, such as housing or education.

CL&P is also gratified that the membership list includes electric distribution companies. We believe that we can provide assistance and expertise to the board because of our experience in planning and administering large scale programs, including energy efficiency programs and programs that reach all electric (and many natural gas) consumers. We have access to and can mobilize infrastructure to deliver implementation of these programs, and we can share those skills with the state. In addition, our capabilities could easily be extended to managing large scale weatherization programs, but we recognize other channels exist for managing those funds as well. Finally, we have deep knowledge of energy markets that would bring insight into the best use of renewable loan guarantees and smart grid investments.

Because the pursuit of these funds has already begun and there will be competition among the states for certain amounts, we urge the committee to seek early consideration of this bill by the legislature. In fact, for the DOE energy efficiency program, an initial application letter from states wanting to seek funds is due next Monday (March 23).

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.