

**Testimony to the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Regarding the Nomination of Kevin M. DelGobbo to be a
Commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control**

January 27, 2009

Good Afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Ranking members McKinney and Piscopo, and members of the Committee. My name is Kevin DelGobbo of Naugatuck, Connecticut. Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today concerning my nomination to be a Commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control.

Please know how honored I am to have been nominated by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to serve in this role, and to be before you for your consideration.

As you know, the DPUC has varying degrees of regulatory authority over the Electric, Natural Gas, Water, and Telecommunications industries in this state. These represent some of the most fundamental commodities vital to our everyday lives, as well as to public health and safety, and our economy as a whole. We have all lived with the reality that these industries have undergone dramatic changes in our state and across the country in recent years.

I firmly believe that these developments demand the greatest urgency on the part of regulators today to mitigate adverse impacts on Connecticut's ratepayers and our economy.

I have had the privilege of serving in the General Assembly for the past 12 years with many of you. During that time I have served as the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, and as a member of the Finance, Public Safety, GAE, Regulation Review, Program Review and Investigations, and Select Committee on Aging. I also served on the Energy and Technology Committee for 10 years, 8 of those as its Ranking member.

My membership and role with the Energy and Technology Committee over the last decade has given me the opportunity to have had significant engagement in the policy discussions that are at the core of the DPUC's jurisdiction. As you well know, these can be extremely complicated and often very technical issues. I have endeavored to earn a reputation as someone who has worked extremely diligently to gain a deep level of understanding of these areas of public policy. I hope to make this unique experience an asset to Connecticut's ratepayers.

Like you, I have heard from my constituents over the years; families and businesses struggling desperately to deal with their electric bills, individuals caught in the morass of the

small print of a cable or phone contract and much more. My constituents have known me as a responsive and tenacious advocate on their behalf. I am committed to bringing that same ethic to my service as a Commissioner.

I would like to note that my first official action during my interim appointment has been to participate in a stakeholder's process with our Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), ISO-NE. This is the result of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order 719 intended to assess the "responsiveness" of RTO's to the states within their jurisdiction. As policymakers I know well that you have often been frustrated by limitations placed upon you in managing electric rates because of Federal or ISO rules that pre-empt state authority. Since its establishment, the ISO's preeminent concern has been the reliability of the power grid in New England. This is admittedly a critical imperative. However the recognition of cost impacts to New England customers must also become a greater part of the ISO's implementation of market rules and development of facility requirements. Our state's Consumer Counsel, Mary Healy and I are joining our counterparts in several states in an attempt to have the ISO mission statement and governance rules amended to incorporate a cost benefit analysis requirement.

From a very young age, my passion has been community and public service. I have been truly blessed to have served in so many volunteer, appointed and elected positions in my community and our great state. I currently serve as the President of the United Way of Naugatuck and Beacon Falls, Vice-President of the Naugatuck YMCA and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Naugatuck Economic Development Corporation. I also volunteer my time for numerous other community and regional efforts.

I have earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut where I also pursued further Graduate level studies. I have also completed academic programs at Jagiellonian University in Poland, and Norwich University Russian School.

Thank you again for your consideration today. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have.