

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Nomination of Amalia Vazquez Bzdyra, Esq. to be a
Commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control

February 3, 2009

Good Afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Ranking Members McKinney and Piscopo and Members of the Committee. My name is Amalia Vazquez Bzdyra. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today concerning my nomination to be a Commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC).

I am truly honored to be nominated by Governor M. Jodi Rell to serve in this capacity and I am grateful at the confidence being placed in me by the Governor to serve in this important and challenging position.

I was born in Havana, Cuba and came to this great country in 1965. My parents left everything they had so that I could be raised in a Democracy and live in a country where freedom of expression and a respect for civil rights are inherent part of daily life. This unselfish act of my parents and my knowledge of the system of government we had left, instilled in me a desire to learn and work in state government. After having the privilege to intern in the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for Connecticut's first woman Governor, Ella T. Grasso in 1978, I knew that I wanted to dedicate my career to public service.

My career in state service began as a judicial research clerk for the judges of the Connecticut Superior Court. From there, I joined the Legislative Branch in Connecticut as an attorney in the Legislative Commissioner's Office. I returned to the Judicial Branch as Legislative Counsel to the Office of the Chief Court Administrator and then joined the Executive Branch where I became the Director of Legal, Policy and Legislative Affairs and Chief Counsel to the Office of Policy and Management. I moved on to become Vice-President for the Connecticut Hospital Association, followed by serving as Chairperson of the State Contracting Standards Board. From there I was appointed Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Social Services, where I served until this nomination.

My career has spanned over all three branches of Connecticut government. My work has also included service on numerous state boards and commissions, including serving as the Chairperson of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, a position which I am extremely proud of having served. A complete list of my service is on the attached resume.

As you know, the DPUC engages in countless regulatory proceedings on an annual basis making rulings impacting its regulated entities. Whether issues relating to electricity, cable, telecommunications or water, I believe my years of experience have prepared me for this very significant position. In many of my positions across state service I have had a significant exposure and involvement in judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings. I have engaged in numerous complicated proceedings requiring both analytical

legal interpretation and the ability to make those proceedings understandable and accessible to the average citizen. In many of the positions I have held I was regularly called upon to build consensus among commissioners or diverse parties to reach a satisfactory conclusion. I am prepared to meet the challenges of enforcing Connecticut's comprehensive energy statutes and policies.

The DPUC has cognizance over matters that affect the daily lives of Connecticut citizens. In this current economic climate I am very sensitive to the pressures utility costs are placing on all of our families and businesses. I am committed, if appointed as a DPUC Commissioner, to balancing the interests of consumers and the private sector. I will work hard to bring the fairness and balance I have demonstrated across two decades of state service to this important position.

I learned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a law degree from Western New England College School of Law. I live in Wallingford with my husband and three sons.

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