



State of Connecticut

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February 17, 2009

Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing

Testimony of State Representative Carlo Leone in Support of HB 5694 An Act Concerning Utility Service Termination

Representative Nardello, Senator Fonfara, Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,
For the record my name is State Representative Carlo Leone from the 148th District in Stamford.

First I would like to thank the committee for again raising this bill and the opportunity to speak here today. I introduced similar legislation last year which passed unanimously in the Energy and Judiciary Committees, as well as the House, but unfortunately it died in the Senate.

Essentially, this legislation would require *that utility companies notify customers no less than thirty days in writing before they can terminate service to a homeowner*. This bill is needed to give families protection and more adequate notice to be able to prepare for not having power or utility services. This would be especially helpful in the case of families with small children, seniors with special needs, and for anyone with specific power related medical requirements, as well as any other citizen who needs to make necessary arrangements for not having power.

This bill proposal is a result of third party falsely attempting to recoup their costs from a broken agreement by *their* client. This third party, from Texas, called the electric company and requested power turned off at the location without any communication to the home owner, and the request was granted by the electric company with out any verification or questions asked. Were it not for my involvement, the power would have been terminated and delays, extra reconnect fees and overall poor customer service relationships would have been inevitable.

Any homeowner should have peace of mind and should not have to worry that any third party can call a power company and terminate electricity without their consent, any communication, or even due diligence by the company to verify the information is valid. This proposed language is a simple fix to a potentially drastic situation and it was negotiated and agreed to by all parties during the 2007 session.

I do appreciate your time and thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I am available at any time and would be more than happy to answer any questions committee members may have.