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**TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 6507, An Act Concerning Reducing and Stabilizing Electric Rates for Residential and Business Customers.

This proposal consolidates electricity purchasing for residential customers and small businesses who use less than 500 kilowatt/hours per month. It also provides a low cost option for larger electricity users.

The bulk of residential and small business customers have remained on the standard offer -- a testament to the broken retail market. Rather than offer hope for consumers, the retail market has provided small electricity users with no real savings.

House Bill 6507 ends the retail competition farce, bringing all small electricity users into one purchasing pool. This pool will enhance purchasing power, lowering costs for all users.

In addition, this legislation opens this purchasing pool to large electricity users, provided they agree to purchase electricity for at least one year. Providing a low cost option to large electricity users through the purchasing pool will drive down the retail competitive rates.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6507.