



**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 3, 2009

**S.B. No. 1075 AAC COMPETITIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS**

The proposed bill would reduce the fixed price period from one year to six months for a "Qualified Electric Offer" from a competitive electric supplier to be communicated upon customer calls to electric distribution companies and it would also change the existing third party verification process for customers switching suppliers, thereby reducing protection for customers that is present in current law. We believe that both of these provisions are not in the best interest of Connecticut ratepayers.

First, there is no proven benefit for reducing the offer period from a one year period to six months. Keep in mind that competitive suppliers can offer potential customers any length of service they want, this provision addresses what alternative supplier information our customer service personnel have to provide when a customer calls in. In fact, this proposal would expose customers to more risk and less predictability over what their prices would be. One of the reasons that customers seek competitive supply is to enhance their ability to obtain known rates for an extended period of time compared to the shorter time frames for standard service supply. This provision would be counter to that customer desire, and therefore, it should be rejected.

Second, the proposal to weaken slamming restrictions reduces customer protections. Current law requires the customer's selection to be confirmed by a variety of means, including independent third-party verification. The current verification process is in place to protect customers from predatory practices, and this proposal weakens customer protection for the benefit of competitive suppliers.

Neither is a reason to change current practice. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.