



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy
Staff Attorney
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Before the Energy & Technology Committee
February 23, 2010**

My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am a staff attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the following two bills:

- **SB 182** *AAC Revisions to the Utility Statutes; and*
- **HB 5217** *AAC Energy Efficient Products*

SB 182 AAC Revisions to the Utility Statutes

CBIA is pleased to support § 6-14 of **SB 182 AAC Revisions to the Utility Statutes**. These sections of the bill define the term "electric broker" and requires electric brokers to obtain a certificate of registration with the Department of Public Utility Control (hereinafter "DPUC").

97% of the respondents to CBIA's 2009 Annual Membership Survey want consumers to have the ability to choose a competitive supplier for the generation portion of their electric bills.¹ Currently, approximately 90% of large industrial users have a competitive supplier, 50% of commercial and smaller industrial users have a competitive supplier and 15% of residential customers have a competitive supplier.² Together, these numbers represent approximately 54% of the energy load in Connecticut.

Increased competition is a good thing for Connecticut ratepayers. It allows them to save money potentially and decrease electric rate volatility. Even though CBIA supports a competitive electric market, we understand that regulatory oversight is still needed. Including electric brokers under the DPUC's purview is good for consumer protection and should ensure that the competitive electric market operates in a manner beneficial to business and residential consumers.

¹ <http://www5.cbiam.com/newsroom/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/2009membershipsurvey3.pdf>

² <http://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/electric.nsf/22bd353cdb8843d985257615005b5bcc/4d19e927ef8972d285257616005c73bf?OpenDocument>



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

HB 5217 AAC Energy Efficient Products

CBIA opposes **HB 5217 AAC Energy Efficient Products**. The bill requires Connecticut to adopt California's energy efficiency standards for televisions, digital versatile disc players (DVD) and compact audio products that are purchased in Connecticut. Additionally, the bill requires Connecticut to identify additional appliance and equipment efficiency standards for products for which no equivalent Connecticut or federal standard exists.

Although CBIA is a proponent of energy efficiency, it does not support legislation or regulations that mandate certain efficiency standards for products sold in Connecticut. First, high electric rates and consumer demand are already successfully driving the production of energy efficient products. Second, the mandates could increase manufacturing and retail costs in Connecticut for all consumers.

Connecticut should not burden itself by mandating efficiency standards for Connecticut products only. For these reasons, CBIA requests that the Energy & Technology committee *reject* **HB 5217**.