

March 16, 2010

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

My name is Jeff Pugliese and I am the Director of Government Affairs at the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce in Middletown. The Middlesex Chamber is a dynamic business organization with over 2,450 members that employ over 50,000 people. I am writing you today to express the Chamber's opposition to H.B. No. 5505, *An Act Concerning Electric Rate Relief*. This issue has come up at the Chamber's Legislative Committee and Environment, Land Use and Energy Committee and both believe that this bill would lead to an unnecessary expansion of state government which comes with very high costs in very difficult economic times.

Our Chamber believes that private utility companies have already developed highly effective methods of procuring the state's power supply. This is done with strict oversight from the Connecticut Department of Public Utilities Control (DPUC) and the Office of Consumer Counsel. H.B. 5505 would create a Connecticut Electric Authority which adds another agency and more staff to state government. Our members stand ready to work with the state on effective methods of reducing energy costs but we believe that this particular bill is not the answer. The creation of another state entity to regulate electric service would lead to higher costs for consumers. This bill could also very well have a negative effect on private sector job growth which is critical to a sustained economic recovery.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the Middlesex Chamber's opposition to H.B. 5505. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pugliese
Director Government Affairs
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce