Retail Energy Supply Association

Testimony Opposing HB 5507
Submitted to the Energy and Technology Committee
March 16, 2010

Good Afternoon Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

The Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA) submits this testimony to **oppose** H.B. 5507 (An Act Concerning Consumer Protections in the Electricity Market). RESA is a trade association comprised of 13 competitive energy suppliers – 10 of which are or are affiliated with Fortune 500 companies – who are actively involved in supplying competitive electric and natural gas products across the country, including customers in Connecticut. RESA member companies include Con Edison Solutions, Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., Direct Energy Service, LLC, Exelon Energy Company, GDF SUEZ Energy Resources, N.A., Inc., Gexa Energy, Green Mountain Energy Company, Hess Corporation, Integrys Energy Services, Inc., Just Energy, Liberty Power, PPL EnergyPlus and Sempra Energy Solutions, LLC.

As currently proposed, Section 2, of House Bill 5507 would stop the inclusions of information regarding "the option of choosing participating [competitive] electric suppliers". Customers can benefit greatly by shopping for products and services offered by competitive electricity supplies. Each Company involved in RESA has separate offerings for their customers including renewable energy, and demand response programs, to reduce customer's power usage.

The proposal to remove information about competitive options and choices for customers from consumer education campaigns would infringe on a customer's right to choose their provider. By including information about consumer's options in the retail electric market, consumers will be able to take control of their energy bill. We should be striving to give Connecticut residents and business owners more information, not less.

The Connecticut DPUC's www.ctenergyinfo.com website has provided Connecticut consumers with critical information about the opportunities and options available from the competitive electric supplier community – including how to shop for a competitive electric supply product and what questions consumers should be asking when comparing offers – and with successful results. Similar competitive opportunities and options are available in the energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy and carbon reduction areas. To foreclose this critical information from Connecticut consumers not only lacks justification but inhibits further customer penetration into more widespread participation in these green initiatives.

For these reasons, RESA **opposes** H.B. 5507 and urges the Committee to **reject** it.

Jay Kooper
President, RESA