



CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

SHIRLEY BERGERT

872 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 258 WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226-258

TELEPHONE (860) 456-1761 EXT. 115 OR 1-800-413-7796 (CLIENT TOLL-FREE LINE)

FAX (860) 456-7420

E-MAIL SBERGERT@CONNLEGALESERVICES.ORG

SHIRLEY BERGERT
DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC BENEFITS TASK FORCE

ANNE LOUISE BLANCHARD
LITIGATION DIRECTOR

CATHERINE CUSHMAN
CHERYL DIANE FEUERMAN
BET GAILOR
JOELEN J. GATES
REBECCA LOOS
SAMUEL T.D. NEVES, JR.
ROYAL STARK
WENDY W. WANCHAK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CAROLE MASTERS
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY

LAUREL J. FREEMAN
PARALEGAL

THOMAS W. CRATTY, JR.
VOLUNTEER PARALEGAL

LUZ OSUBA
HEROILDA RIOS
LEGAL ASSISTANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
62 WASHINGTON STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
(860) 344-0447

THOMAS D. GOLDBERG
BOARD CHAIR

STEVEN D. EPPLER-EPSTEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAW OFFICES

211 STATE STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

16 MAIN STREET
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

153 WILLIAMS STREET
NEW LONDON, CT 06320

20 SUMMER STREET
STAMFORD, CT 06901

85 CENTRAL AVENUE
WATERBURY, CT 06702

872 MAIN STREET
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

SATELLITE OFFICES

5 COLONY STREET
MERRIDEN, CT 06451

62 WASHINGTON STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

98 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SOUTH NORWALK, CT 06854

564 PROSPECT STREET
TORRINGTON, CT 06790

29 NAEK ROAD, SUITE 5A
ROCKVILLE, CT 06066

Energy and Technology Committee Hearing

March 16, 2010

Testimony of Shirley Bergert¹

Regarding RB 5507, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN THE RETAIL ELECTRICITY MARKET

Recommended Action: Support provisions in Section 1 to end ratepayer subsidies to generation providers.

Section 1 of this bill would end electric utility customer subsidies to electric generation suppliers. After ten years of experience with deregulation and the highest electric rates on the continental US, eliminating a subsidy that contributes to this high cost for electricity is appropriate. The effect would be that generation suppliers would have to cover their own marketing, billing and collection expenses as part of doing business in Connecticut. Ratepayers would not be forced to subsidize expenses for businesses they may not otherwise choose to subsidize or patronize.

The following are the customer subsidies to generation suppliers (currently provided through electric distribution companies) that would be eliminated:

- Requiring the distribution company to provide customers information, including price and terms, regarding alternate sources of generation services;
- Transferring interested customers to call centers for alternative sources of generation services;
- Allowing alternate generation companies to provide information regarding their services in the distribution company customer bills on a quarterly basis; and
- Provision of billing and collections services by the distribution company.

¹ Shirley Bergert serves: on the Low Income Energy Advisory Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-41b); as the residential representative on the Energy Conservation Management Board overseeing the expenditure of ratepayer conservation funds in Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-245m); as the low income representative on the Fuel Oil Conservation Board (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-22f); and on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University.

