

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS CORPORATION AND
THE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT GAS COMPANY

Raised Bill 460 – Low Income Energy Rates

Raised Bill 5505 - Electric Rate Relief

Good Afternoon, Senator Fonfara and Representative Nardello and members of the Committee, my name is James McNally and I am Director of Customer Services for the Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG) and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG). Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony today.

We support discounted rates for residential natural gas low-income customers. SCG and CNG serve over 33,000 residential customers who have qualified for hardship status and we know there are increasing numbers that qualify but do not apply. These customers do need additional assistance in paying their energy bills.

Please note that all of Connecticut's gas companies compete daily with fuel oil and other petroleum products, which are far less environmentally friendly than natural gas. The sellers of these fuels will not be offering their low-income customers the option proposed in this bill. We request that you be mindful of that fact and consider that any additional surcharges levied on our non-hardship customers will create a competitive disadvantage to the sale and use of natural gas.

In conclusion, I would like to express our appreciation and support for your work on this issue and would like to work with other stakeholders, the DPUC and the legislature as a collaborate group to make discount rates work.

Thank you for your consideration.