



**Testimony of David Thomas,
AARP Connecticut Economic Security Chair
on S.B. 460, AAC Low-Income Energy Rates
Energy & Technology Committee
March 16, 2010**

Good evening, Chairman Fonfara, Chairwoman Nardello, members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is David Thomas; I am an AARP volunteer, the chairman of AARP Connecticut's Economic Security Team and AARP's representative on the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board. On behalf of AARP members and seniors, I would like to lend our support to S.B. 460, An Act Concerning Low-Income Energy Rates. AARP has nearly 600,000 members in Connecticut, who are now paying the highest electricity rates in the continental United States. AARP supports S.B. 460 because it will establish a low-income electric and gas rate that takes into account the disproportionate energy costs facing low income households. A low-income rate would alleviate the energy burden on low-income consumers, especially lower income seniors, and create a more equitable system.

S.B. 460 ensures that the energy burden on low-income consumers is proportionate to the energy burden on median income consumers. AARP supports the directive in the bill that requires the DPUC to set a low-income rate, rather than simply making the program discretionary. We also support the provision that requires coordination among existing programs, as well as, the section that extends eligibility to those who qualify for other means-tested programs.