

**Testimony**  
**of**  
**THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY**  
**before the**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYEE ADVANCEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

**Re**  
**RAISED HOUSE BILL 5025**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING A GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE**  
**AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOBS LOAN**  
**FORGIVENESS PROGRAM**

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**

**HARTFORD, CT**

**February 18, 2010**

Good Afternoon, Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employee Advancement Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Director of Conservation and Load Management for The United Illuminating Company. I am here today to testify on **Raised House Bill 5025 – AN ACT CONCERNING A GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOBS LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.**

This Bill would create a loan forgiveness program to promote education and employment in green industries in Connecticut. The United Illuminating Company supports training for green jobs, as well as expanded employment in green industries in Connecticut. We strongly oppose this Bill because it would divert 3 million dollars of funding from ratepayer funded Energy Efficiency programs to be used to fund the loan forgiveness program. The effect of this diversion would be a reduction in funding for programs that create the very green jobs that these individuals would work at. Developing incentives for people to become trained and employed in green jobs at the expense of the program funds that create some of the actual green jobs in Connecticut would appear short sighted. The programs funded by the 3 mil charge on customer's electric bills have received national recognition as model programs. The funding for these programs should be retained and expanded so these programs can remain the foundation for green job employment in Connecticut.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided Federal funding for investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy in Connecticut. A stipulation attached to that funding is that the Federal funding can not be used to supplant State funding. This Bill would divert 3 million dollars in current funding from the energy efficiency programs in Connecticut, creating a situation where State funds have been supplanted with Federal funds. The result of this action may jeopardize some of the Federal funds that Connecticut has received. This loss of Federal funding would have severe consequences that would extend well beyond the 3 million dollars that would be diverted.

For these reasons The United Illuminating Company strongly opposes House Bill 5025 in its current form. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.