



Connecticut
Light & Power

The Northeast Utilities System



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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee—Feb. 18, 2010

H.B. No. 5025 AAC A GREEN TECHNOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCE AND HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOBS LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.

The proposed bill would create a loan forgiveness program for students who graduated from state higher education facilities and who have been working for two years in green or other related jobs in Connecticut. The program would be funded in part from the diversion of funds from the energy efficiency program. **We oppose this bill.**

First, while we can appreciate the intention of reducing student loans for green job holders, we are concerned that the proposed bill will have more adverse impacts than positive ones. By diverting \$3 million from energy efficiency funds in order to give grants to offset student loans for those who are in green jobs, the proposal would actually eliminate existing green jobs. Today, our programs support 2,600 direct green jobs, providing high-skill opportunities with good wages to recent graduates. By reducing funding for energy efficiency programs, some recent graduates would lose their green jobs. Their consolation would be that some of them might have the government pay a portion of their outstanding student loans. In a twist of the Gift of the Maji story-- recent graduates and the state's economy would lose jobs, more energy would be wasted and the environment would be further tarnished. Perhaps more importantly, we would have given a further signal to our recent graduates that we do not want them to stay and work in Connecticut. I am sure that a current green job holder would much prefer to have continued employment as opposed to having no job and a \$2500 offset to a student loan.

Second, CL&P continues to be a significant supporter of green job education and training, from grants to our colleges and universities, to hiring local interns (150 over the last two years from UCONN and UNH), to leadership in education and training. Many components of this effort have been funded by NU Foundation grants, and others involve participation of our employees or in-kind services.



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Third, CL&P and UI provide \$2.3 million as part of its 2010 energy efficiency budget to educate customers, educators and communities on energy efficiency and energy efficient programs.

Fourth, this bill would only charge the new tax to electric consumers of CL&P and UI, it would unfairly not apply to electric consumers of municipal electric departments, and it would unfairly burden low income consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.