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The Northeast Utilities System



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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Energy and Technology Committee—March 9, 2010

H. B. No. 5467 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COORDINATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

The proposed bill would require revisions to current processes and practices for the delivery of energy efficiency programs. As a general rule, we believe that our current programs are very effective and are nationally recognized. Our concern about the proposed bill is that, while perhaps well intentioned, it tinkers with processes or administration of the energy efficiency programs that have evolved over many years and that have overcome most of the deficiencies that this bill attempts to address. Thus, we do not believe that this bill is necessary, and may cause more harm than benefit.

A main focus of the proposed bill is the coordination of programs sponsored by the Department of Social Services and those of the ECMB and utilities. Perhaps the easiest, least intrusive way to accomplish this outcome is to limit this bill to Section 9, which addresses this concern.

A second focus of the proposed bill is coordination and collaboration among existing entities and programs for different fuels. Here, we are concerned over adverse effects of tinkering. Through actions of the ECMB we have overcome many of these obstacles. Collaboration between the CEEF and CCEF, and among the energy efficiency programs is already happening as evidenced by the CT Science Center Energy City Gallery and the requirement that residential customers implement Home Energy Solutions prior to receiving a grant for solar PV. The ECMB and the utilities have worked hard to integrate the electric and gas programs and these same programs also serve non-electric, non-gas measures through use of ARRA funding. We essentially have a fuel blind integrated delivery mechanism for customers and this would derail that progress.



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Section 2 indicates that the ECMB will receive funding that can be deposited into an account. The ECMB doesn't have this capability and the Companies are the entities that hold the funding used for energy efficiency.

Section 3 appears to revise the preparation process for C&LM plans. The ECMB presently advises and assists the Companies in the development of their C&LM Plan. This appears to give them the ability to approve or reject the plan. While the ECMB presently votes on the plan, this is primarily for the purposes of ECMB endorsement to the DPUC. This appears to add another gate keeper with no apparent administrative value. Furthermore, this section references a CT Electric Authority which appears to add another level of oversight that is not necessary.

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