

To: The Energy & Technology Committee of the Connecticut Legislature

My name is Frieda Denenmark of Heritage Village in Southbury.

I represent the town of Southbury with permission from the first Selectman, William Davis, who could not be here today.

In addition I am the President of the Heritage Village Civic Association. Heritage Village is the largest condominium in Connecticut (containing 2580 units), and a senior community. Heritage Village is 100% electrically powered. That means we use electricity for heating. In winter months we use much more than the 700 KW hours used as an example of typical energy CT monthly kw hr usage.

In addition to Heritage Village, there are many other condo and residences in Southbury that use electricity for heating. In the late 1960's and 70's, electricity was touted as cheap, clean and safe energy source. And thus much construction in that period used electric heating, especially since rebates and other incentives were made available to builders. Since then, we know what happened to the cost of electricity.

The residents of Southbury and particularly the residents of Heritage village, a condo community of almost 4,000 senior citizens wish to register our opposition to the provision of Public Act 10-179, Section 126(b) that imposes a monthly .0038 cents/KW hr usage charge on C. L. & P. rate payers for 6 months. This charge, ETC, ends June 30, 2011, appears on the C. L. & P. bill. This charge is to be followed by an ERRB charge for 8 years. The monies collected via the C. L. & P. bill are to pass through into the General CT State coffers and used to decrease the state's fiscal deficit.

Our residents are angered by the unfairness of these levies. Heating by electricity is very expensive. In winter months, Heritage Villagers and undoubtedly others who heat via electricity may use 3500 – 4500 kw hrs or more. This is not even

close to the 700 kw hr example (or \$2.66/month) cited to indicate how small and trivial the average burden would be. NOT SO!!! Of course the charges go down in spring and autumn, but increase again in summer for those who use air conditioning. Further, C. L. & P. rate payers started paying the charges in Jan. 2011. United Illuminating rate payers do not start until 2014, but this charge was "slipped" into replace the CTA charge which ended December 31, 2010 in the C. L. & P. territory. The equivalent in U.I. territory, presumably does not end until December 31, 2013. Thus for three years C. L. & P. rate payers are contributing to current Connecticut deficit while U. I. payers do not. This is an unfair and discriminatory tax, no matter what name is used to describe it.

The fiscal deficit is a serious problem and must be addressed. As residents of Southbury, we wish to do our part to alleviate this economic crisis. But the solutions should be fair and equitable. We consider charges based on KW usage to place an undue burden on those who use electricity for heating and have no other choice. These charges are ill thought through, regressive, punitive, unfair and discriminatory taxation and imposed on those least able to pay.

We urge you to repeal the provisions of Public Act 10-179, Section 126(b) and whatever authorizes ERRB charges, and to develop a more equitable scheme to deal with the State's fiscal deficit.

The Heritage Village Civic Association is circulating petitions on this issue to our residents and will undoubtedly gather about 3,000 signatures. The weather has slowed down the process. When we have completed our efforts, we will be happy to send you copies of petitions with all signatures should you request them.

Thank you.

Frieda Denenmark, President, Heritage Village Civic Association

H. William Davis, First Selectman, Southbury