



**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

Energy and Technology Committee  
February 17, 2011

***Re: Proposed H.B. No. 6017, LCO No. 2168, AN ACT CONCERNING DEPOSITS AND  
RECONNECTION FEES CHARGED BY UTILITY COMPANIES***

Good afternoon. My name is Richard Soderman, and I am Director of Legislative Policy and Strategy for Northeast Utilities Service Company, appearing on behalf of the Connecticut Light and Power Company and Yankee Gas Services Company.

This bill would prohibit any electric, electric distribution, or gas company that terminates service to a customer for nonpayment from requiring such customer to pay a security deposit or reconnection fee prior to the reconnection of service if the customer has paid the amount owed.

CL&P and Yankee Gas oppose this bill. We don't like to terminate our customers for nonpayment. But if we do terminate a customer for nonpayment, there is a cost associated with reconnecting this customer even if the bill is paid in full. We have to physically drive to the customer's location and reconnect the service. There is a cost associated with doing this. If this cost is not borne by the person causing the cost, the delinquent customer, then it is paid for by all of our good paying customers. We do not believe this is fair. The cost associated with reconnecting a customer should be borne by the delinquent customer. This is why the utilities have reconnect fees that are approved by the DPUC. Regarding security deposits, again, the utilities assess them only to protect against nonpayment from customers who we believe may be a risk for nonpayment. When customers do not pay their utility bills, the costs associated with the accounts are paid for by utilities' good paying customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.