

Testimony
of
THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Re
RAISED HOUSE BILL 6544
AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT
March 8, 2011

Good Afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Director of Conservation and Load Management for The United Illuminating Company ("UI"). I am here today to testify on **Raised House Bill 6544 – AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

This Bill would create a number of initiatives that would increase energy efficiency efforts in Connecticut. The United Illuminating Company (UI) has a long history of supporting energy efficiency efforts, and has implemented energy efficiency programs for the benefit of consumers for over two decades.

This bill would require Energy Star Benchmarking in a number of situations. Although Energy Star Benchmarking is a good way to compare your energy efficiency to others who may be similar to you, the results are not actionable, and are not extremely precise.

For these reasons, I would caution against too large a reliance on the benchmarking tool, and I would suggest that the Energy Conservation Management Board (ECMB) be charged with

determining the appropriate tool to be used for this activity. This would allow other tools to be used if they are determined to have better functionality.

This bill would require the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to oversee independent evaluations of Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund programs. With the large investment Connecticut makes in energy efficiency, it is imperative that the results are independently evaluated so there can be no question of the results that are achieved. We support this section of the bill as a way to instill even greater confidence in the results of these programs. The one recommendation we would make to improve this section would be to allow the DPUC to retain consultants to implement this section initially, or on an as needed basis. After the initial period, it is important to develop that expertise within the Department. Using consultants on a permanent basis is not the most cost effective approach to accomplishing this task.

This bill also advances the use of performance contracting and financing as tools to advance energy efficiency efforts. UI has long been an advocate of performance contracting in the right situation. UI has also been diligently working on ways to use financing as a tool to increase energy efficiency investments. We applaud these sections as a concrete step to increase the efficiency levels in Connecticut.

For these reasons The United Illuminating Company supports House Bill 6544 with the improvements we recommend. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.