

Good afternoon, my name is John Ellis I am the founder of the Connecticut Sports Foundation Against Cancer, a cancer survivor, and a former major league baseball player with the New York Yankees among other teams. I'm here to tell the committee a little about what we do and how the deregulated energy market has made a huge contribution to our success in helping Connecticut families in their time of need.

CSF's principal objective is to provide financial assistance to Connecticut families stricken with cancer for rent, mortgage payments, car payments, medical co-pays, food, medications, gasoline, and transportation to medical appointments for the benefit of the cancer patient and their family. This aid helps patients maintain their dignity and lessens the stress that inhibits their treatment and recovery. Starion Energy is one of our premium corporate sponsors and they have been hugely successful in not only saving Connecticut residents' money and saving money for the people who come to us in a time of need, but in raising funds for CSF to fulfill these objectives.

This bill focuses on reducing electricity costs, ensuring reliability of the energy supply, increasing the use of clean energy, and creating jobs and developing the state's energy related economy, all laudable goals. I appreciate the efforts of this Committee, however, there are certain provisions of this bill, if not revised, would have the unintended consequence of driving suppliers out of the market and thus taking choice away from Connecticut consumers and jobs out of Connecticut, and hurting the very people who need it the most. Over 600,000 retail customers have switched to an alternative supplier, these suppliers have created over 2000 w-2 jobs, and 15,000 1099 jobs, and it is estimated by the DPUC the competitive supplier market resulted in more than \$200 million in reduced rates for their customers in just the past year. For these

reasons I encourage the committee members to meet with the industry experts available right here in this room today and listen to what they have to say to prevent the well intentioned passages in this bill driving suppliers out of the market and thus taking choice away from Connecticut consumers and jobs out of Connecticut.

John Ellis  
Founder  
CSF