



**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 10, 2011**

P.S.B. No. 200 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING GEOTHERMAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS

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.

I would like to start with some good news. CL&P's residential electric rates went down by about 7.8% as of January 1, 2011, providing relief to our customers, and especially those with limited incomes. Second, our current residential rates are more than 13% less than what they were in January 2009. Third, based on our expectations on costs in the future, we anticipate further reductions in our rates in 2012, in all, totaling about 15% from their peak. Thus, electric bills have become less of a burden on all customers, including those on limited incomes. I implore the legislature to avoid taking actions that, in effect, spend those savings through new programs or diversions, and instead let those reductions flow on to residential and business consumers.

Turning to S.B. 200, this bill proposes that the general statutes be amended to develop a geothermal renewable energy credit and brownfields geothermal renewable energy credit incentive program, to allow utilities to purchase credits in the retail market from companies that produce geothermal energy and apply such credits towards their renewable energy portfolio requirements.

As drafted, the bill is not clear as to whether there is a separate set aside for geothermal credits, or whether the existing definition of renewables would be expanded.



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Expanding the definition would add to regional consistency, since both New Hampshire and Massachusetts have such a definition.

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