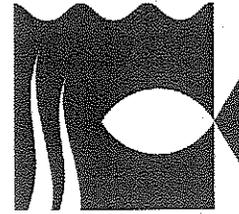


**Connecticut Fund  
for the Environment**



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Energy & Technology Committee  
Public Hearing  
February 3, 2011

Submitted by: Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

Regarding:

Proposed Bill No. 5207, AN ACT CONCERNING A SPECIAL ELECTRICITY RATE FOR  
SENIORS WHO HEAT THEIR HOMES WITH ELECTRICITY

*Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. The mission of CFE is to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. For more than twenty-five years, CFE has used legal and scientific expertise to bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.*

Representative Nardello, Senator Fonfara and members of the Energy & Technology Committee, Connecticut Fund for the Environment offers this testimony on Proposed Bill No. 5207, An Act Concerning a Special Electricity Rate for Seniors Who Heat Their Homes with Electricity.

CFE recognizes that under the best of circumstances, electric heat is a costly option for Connecticut's residents. If the Committee determines that a special rate for seniors using electric-resistance heat is warranted, CFE urges the Commission to make eligibility for such a rate subject to means-testing, rather than providing a blanket rate reduction for seniors regardless of an individual's ability to pay. Such a program should be targeted to provide assistance to those who will most benefit from it. CFE also suggests making participation in the state's energy efficiency programs a condition of eligibility for the special rate.