



**Testimony of John Murphy on behalf of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group
in favor of Raised Bill 5543 AAC THE CREATION AND EXPANSION OF
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the committee. My name is John Murphy and I'm speaking on behalf of the over 20,000 member families of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group in favor of Raised Bill 5543, AAC THE CREATION AND EXPANSION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES.

CCAG has testified for many years now about the need to create a Public Power Authority in Connecticut in order to drive down costs for consumers. Last year, this committee crafted a bill that was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor that begins to deal with our procurement process. We are hopeful that last year's bill will result in lower energy costs and will be monitoring to see if the new procurement process is working as well as possible.

Raised Bill 5543 takes another step toward lowering rates for consumers as well as increasing service reliability. It allows for municipalities to acquire electrical distribution facilities and equipment for the purposes of establishing their own municipal electric utilities.

It also allows existing municipal electric utilities to expand into an adjacent municipality, provided such expansion is approved by a three step process in both municipalities ending in a referendum vote. After such approval, the municipal electric utility may purchase, condemn or otherwise acquire any electric distribution facilities in the adjacent municipality necessary to provide electric distribution service.

Municipalities should be able to decide whether or not creating their own municipal electric utility or joining with a neighboring one makes sense for their community, and whether the acquisition of electric distribution facilities makes fiscal sense for their town and its taxpayers. Please pass Raised Bill 5543 so municipalities have a choice in how electric service is provided in their town. Thank you.

CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

Putting People First