



**Connecticut  
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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## Comments of The Connecticut Light and Power Company

### **RE: SB 426 - AN ACT CONCERNING *Geographic Information Systems Data Sharing***

The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) believes the intent of this bill is admirable. We are currently working with our municipalities on essential improvements to emergency response opportunities. The sharing of electric infrastructure data can lead to improved planning and response to emergencies and should help in making electric restoration during major outages quicker and safer for all those involved. However we do have some concerns regarding the extent of sharing of data that this bill contemplates.

Our chief concern is in regard to infrastructure security. Electronic GIS has the location of switches, substations, circuits and other electric infrastructure data. This data is critical to the safe and reliable operation of our distribution system and must be secured so that it isn't compromised.

CL&P believes a necessary first step should be the convening of a task force made up of municipalities, the state emergency management agencies, PURA and utilities to develop standards for the safe use and security of electronic data as called for by this bill.

We also support the current effort to bring multiple data sources together that is currently underway by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The development of a Unified Incident Command and Decision Support system (UICDS) will be a major step forward in developing the necessary standards for sharing of data.