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CONNECTICUT ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

Connecticut Association for Community Action

March 5, 2013

Co-Chair Bob Duff
Co-Chair Lonnie Reed
Senator Clark J. Chapin
Representative Laura R. Hoydick

Energy and Technology Committee:

We are submitting testimony on **H.B. 4473**, AN ACT CONCERNING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION, THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, ELECTRIC SUPPLIER DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, THE CALL BEFORE YOU DIG PROGRAM, AND MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE UTILITY STATUTES.

The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is a network of community action agencies that builds communities, promotes public policy, and develops leaders to end poverty in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA) represents 576 petroleum marketers, principally made up of home heating oil dealers and gasoline distributers, located in Connecticut. CEMA members employ over 13,000 people in our state.

The State of Connecticut established a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB), in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 16a-41b, to assist the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the planning, development, implementation and coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies. The Board advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the impact of utility rates and policies.

The LIEAB Board's composition is statutorily prescribed with 6 of the 16 voting members representing public utilities. We ask that the Energy Committee amend the law (see attached) so that the LIEAB's Board consists of representatives that are more proportional to the energy that our states residents use.

38% of LIEAB's Board is represented by utility companies, some of whom have common ownership. Electric and natural gas utilities provide heating fuel to less than half the home in our state, while home heating oil and propane supply more than 50%.

We ask that each fuel [electricity, natural gas, home heating oil, propane, and solid fuels (ie. wood, coal, etc.)] have proportional representation on LIEAB's Board so that the most broad range of expertise can be utilized when advising OPM, DSS and DEEP on matters concerning development, implementation and coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies.

CAFCA and CEMA asks that the Energy Committee amend the language in H.B. 4473 to include the language attached to our testimony that would allow for propositional representation on the LIEAB.

Respectfully,

Edith Pollock Karsky
Executive Director CAFCA

Christian A. Herb
Vice President, CEMA

Sec. 167. Section 16a-41b of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

(a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board which shall consist of the following members or their designees: The [Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the secretary's designee; the Commissioner of Social Services or the commissioner's designee; the] executive director of the Commission on Aging; [a] one representative of [each] an electric [and gas] public service company and one representative of a natural gas public service company [designated by each such company;] the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; [, or the chairperson's designee;] the Consumer Counsel; [or the counsel's designee;] the executive director of Operation Fuel; the executive director of Infoline; the director of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; the executive director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut; the Connecticut president of AARP; or the president's designee [a designee of the Norwich Public Utility]; [a designee] one representative of the heating oil industry from [Independent Connecticut Petroleum] Connecticut Energy Marketers[Dealers] Association; one representative from the retail propane industry; one representative of the solid fuel deliverable fuels industry and a representative of the community action agencies administering energy assistance programs under contract with the Department of Social Services, designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Commissioners of Social Services and Energy and Environmental Protection, or their designees, shall serve as nonvoting members of the board.

(b) The Low-Income Energy Advisory Board shall advise and assist the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Social Services in the planning, development, implementation and coordination of energy-assistance-related programs and policies and low-income weatherization assistance programs and policies, shall advise the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding the impact of utility rates and policies, and shall make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding (1) legislation and plans subject to legislative approval, and (2) administration of the block grant program authorized under the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act, as described in section 16a-41a, to ensure affordable access to residential energy services to low-income state residents.

(c) [The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the person designated by the secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be the chairperson of the board.] The board shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its voting members.

(d) [The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall convene the first meeting of the board not later than August 1, 2005. The secretary] The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or his or her designee, shall provide notice of meetings to the members of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board, provide space for such meetings, maintain minutes and publish reports of the board.

Statement of Purpose: To change the membership of the Low Income Energy Advisory Board to better reflect the types of fuel sources utilized under the LIHEAP program.

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB) Members 2012-2013

Chairperson	Pat Wrice
Vice-Chairperson	Joy Hollister
Voting Members (*Designees*)	
Commission on Aging Exec. Director	*Robert Norton*
1 United Illuminating Co. Representative	Laura Gonzalez
2 Connecticut Light & Power Co. Representative	Lindsay Parke
3 CT Natural Gas Co. Representative	James McNally
4 So. CT Natural Gas Co. Representative	John Dobos
5 Yankee Gas Services Co. Representative	Eddie Swift
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Chairman	*Frank Augeri*
Office of Consumer Counsel	*Taren O'Connor*
Operation Fuel Executive Director	Pat Wrice (*Brenda Watson*)
InfoLine Executive Director	*Kate Quigley*
CT Local Administrators of Social Services	*Kristen Formanek* (*Joy Hollister*)
Legal Assistance Resource Center Director	Shirley Bergert
CT AARP President	*Nora Duncan*
6 Norwich Public Utilities Representative	Kerri Kemp
Independent CT Petroleum Assoc. Representative	vacant
CT Assoc. for Community Action Representative	Edith Karsky
Non-voting Members (*Designees*):	
Office of Policy & Management Secretary	*Caty McDermott*
Dept. of Social Services Commissioner	*Carlene Taylor*
Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection Commissioner	*Michael Coyle*

LIEAB

Content last updated November 1, 2012