

**Connecticut General Assembly**

**The Energy and Technology Committee**

March 5, 2013

Raised Senate Bill No. 944, *AAC Establishing a Pilot Program to Allow for Municipal Aggregation*

**Testimony of Dominion Retail, Inc.**

My name is William Barkas, and I am Manager of State Government Relations for Dominion Retail, Inc. My company is a licensed retail electric supplier with nearly 670,000 electric customers in nine states, including more than 60,000 small mass market customers in Connecticut together with our business partner, Levco Energy. Overall, we serve more than two million retail energy customers in 15 states.

**SB 944**

This bill would authorize an opt-out municipal electric aggregation pilot program for a municipality of more than 140,000 residents. We are unclear as to the purpose of this proposed pilot program. It is both unnecessary and redundant given the status of Connecticut's retail choice market and would conflict with the Governor's bill (SB 843) that would over the next year effectively auction off those standard service customers that have not chosen an alternative retail choice supplier. Creating another standard offer-like service is not necessary when about 50 percent of the state's consumers are participating in choice. Opt-in municipal aggregation would be a viable marketing channel for certain, but that is available now without additional legislation. An opt-out pilot program would cause more confusion among consumers and not promote choice—it would take the retail market backwards.

In general, Dominion is supportive of the concept of municipal aggregation and participates in some, but SB 944 is the wrong bill at the wrong time at this stage of market development in the state. Consequently, we oppose adoption of this legislation.