



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Public Hearing – March 4, 2014  
Energy & Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by PURA Chairman Art House

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following three bills.

### **PROPOSED SENATE BILL NO. 356 - AN ACT CONCERNING UNAUTHORIZED ELECTRIC SUBMETERING**

This bill seeks to amend Conn. Gen. Stat. 16-41 (PURA's fining authority) in a way that would allow PURA to impose penalties on entities that are engaged in unauthorized electric submetering.

PURA currently has an open proceeding, Docket Number 13-01-26 - PURA Generic Investigation of Electric Submetering, and an associated working group, that are considering a number of procedural, legal and technical issues having to do with electric submetering. We do not believe it would be appropriate for us to comment in any great detail on the issue of electric submetering while that Docket is pending. However, PURA does support the intent of this proposal as it seeks to protect consumers from unauthorized electric submetering practices generally.

### **HOUSE BILL NO. 5408 AN ACT CONCERNING TREE TRIMMING**

This bill places the burden of proving that public convenience and necessity require the pruning or removal of a tree or shrub on the utility companies.

PURA has an another open proceeding, Docket Number 12-01-10 - PURA Investigation into the Tree Trimming Practices of Connecticut's Utility Companies, in which we are considering a number of legal, procedural and technical issues involving tree trimming. As such, we don't believe it would be appropriate for us to comment in any substantive way on this proposal while the matter is pending before PURA. Should this bill become law, PURA will incorporate whatever is required under the bill into our Final Decision in Docket Number 12-01-10.

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## **HOUSE BILL NO. 5410 AN ACT CONCERNING GAS COMPANIES' COST RECOVERY OF LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS**

The bill's stated intent is to limit the amount of lost and unaccounted for gas that a gas company can recover from ratepayers. The bill also requires PURA to establish regulations and establish a fixed factor of adjustment to specify the manner in which gas companies calculate lost and unaccounted for gas in establishing the purchase gas adjustment (PGA) clause. It is our understanding that another one of the intents of this bill is to reduce the amount of natural gas methane leakage into the atmosphere.

PURA is always exploring ways in which Connecticut's natural gas industry can further reduce the number and types of gas leaks. We do it in rate cases and other Dockets, as well as on a daily basis through our Gas Pipeline Safety Unit. We will continue to look for the causes of lost and unaccounted for natural gas as part of our overall regulatory responsibilities and mission.

Passage of the proposed legislation would have some impact on the Authority's workload. While the lost and unaccounted for gas (LUFG) factor is already established in a rate case, setting the LUFG factor under the proposed bill will require more precision so as not to under/over incentivize gas company actions. The Authority estimates that the requirements under the LUFG reduction incentive proposal as written in the proposal will require additional person hours of work annually and that will vary depending, for example, on the number of rate cases that are filed with the Authority in a given year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Nicholas E. Neeley, PURA's Legislative Liason, at 860-827-2625 or [Nicholas.Neeley@ct.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Neeley@ct.gov).