

**Statement of**

**The United Illuminating Company**

**Re: HB 6018 – AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SERVICE RESTORATION**

**ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – February 24, 2015**

The United Illuminating Company (UI) would like to offer comments on proposed **House Bill 6018, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SERVICE RESTORATION.**

UI has serious concerns with the premise of this bill because it would have an impact on the Company's ability to quickly and efficiently restore power in the event of longer-term outages. The bill would require UI to deviate from industry standards and restoration priorities as filed in its annual Emergency Response Plan and approved by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Customers with disabilities are scattered throughout UI's 17-town service territory, and focusing on their individual customer restorations would impede the crews' ability to assess damage and restore power in the most efficient manner.

The Company has restoration priorities that first address immediate life-threatening, public health and safety situations, like burning or downed wires. Next, crews will focus on restoration of service to previously-designated public emergency service institutions such as major hospitals and evacuation centers and others, as prioritized by each municipality.

Following that, crews will begin service restoration to locations where there is the maximum number of customers affected can be restored at once. Once these primary lines and larger blocks of customers are restored, crews will then focus on the repair and restoration of equipment and lines to individual streets and homes/buildings. Most recently, and as restoration resources are available, we have moved to restoration of individual customers at the same time as the larger scale restoration is under way. This way when service is restored to a larger area of customers with site specific interruption will have their power restored as well.

The Company vitally understands the frustration of all customers when power loss occurs, especially longer duration outages. That is why UI takes proactive measures to communicate with customers prior to an event, especially to those with disabilities. Prior to an expected event, the Company makes phone calls to those customers with disabilities urging them to seek alternative shelter since we expect longer-term power loss. In most cases, shelters are part of the local municipalities' list of priority locations to get service restoration.

Restoring individual customers in a large-scale outage is impractical and dangerous because it would extend the length of overall restoration, and possibly place more customers at risk, especially during cold weather events.

If you have additional questions, please contact Carlos Vazquez, UIL Senior Director of Government Relations at (203) 521-2455 or Al Carbone, Government Relations Professional at (203) 671-4421.