

Shaiken, Benjamin

From: AARP <aarpwebact@action.aarp.org> on behalf of Jennifer Millea <aarpwebact@action.aarp.org>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 1:08 PM
To: ETTestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB 573, banning variable rate electric contracts!

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Feb 23, 2015

CT General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee Committee Members CT

Dear CT General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee Members,

I'm writing to voice my support for Senate Bill 573, An Act Concerning Variable Electric Rates. We need to protect electric consumers in Connecticut by banning variable rate contracts.

Predatory variable electric contracts are a bad deal for consumers.

Despite recent legislation aimed at protecting electric customers in CT from predatory practices of third-party suppliers, customers are still falling prey to sneaky tactics, like variable rate contracts, that can end up costing them more than if they had stayed with Standard Offer.

Suppliers can raise variable rates from month to month by 25% without notice. Additionally if I cancel my contract early I may be subject to a penalty, while third-party suppliers can drop me as a customer at any time for no reason at all. Buyer beware simply isn't good enough when we know things like variable rates are designed to take advantage of people - by enticing them with a low initial rate and then hoping the customer forgets or misses a deadline so that the company can charge them even more.

Electricity is not a luxury; it is a necessity for my health and safety. Please support Senate Bill 573.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Millea
32 Gardner Tavern Lane
Coventry, CT 06238