



2074 Park Street, Suite 210
Hartford, CT 06106
860-233-7554
www.connpirg.org

Written Testimony of Evan Preston, ConnPIRG State Director, Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Energy and Technology Committee

February 24, 2015

Supporting Senate Bill 573: An Act Concerning Variable Electric Rates
Supporting SB 570: An Act Concerning Electric Savings and Fixed Bill Fees as well as SB 574, HB 5281, HB
6014 and HB 6029

Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Senator Formica, Representative Ackert, and members of the
committee,

My name is Evan Preston and I am State Director of ConnPIRG, the Connecticut Public Interest Research
Group. ConnPIRG is a non-profit, non-partisan consumer group. Our consumer program works to alert
the public to hidden dangers and scams and to ban anti-consumer practices and unsafe products. We
appreciate this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 573.

We commend Senate President Pro Tempore Looney as well as all current co-sponsors for supporting
this measure.

A 2014 [consumer advisory](#)¹ from the Office of Consumer Council and Attorney General announced that
10 electric suppliers were charging at least some customers rates higher than 17 cents per kilowatt hour
(kWh), compared to the standard offer of around 9 cents per kWh. A [Hartford Courant article](#)² the
following day further reported that tens of thousands of Connecticut ratepayers pay well above the
standard offer.

By now it is well documented how some electric suppliers lure customers with teaser rates only to
significantly raise rates later, roll fixed rate supply agreements over into variable rate agreements at the
conclusion of a fixed rate term, and charge excessively high termination fees. The need for reform is
clear.

We urge this committee to help protect consumers by passing SB 573.

¹ http://www.ct.gov/occ/lib/occ/1-16-14_oag_occ_electricsuppliers.pdf accessed 2/19/14

² <http://www.courant.com/business/hc-electric-prices-suppliers-20140116,0,2968824.story> accessed 2/19/14

We also urge support for SB 570 and the similar measures introduced as SB 574, HB 5281, HB 6014 and HB 6029. These measures would improve Connecticut's market for electricity by restoring fairness to consumers who conserve energy as well as those who improve their energy efficiency.

We urge this committee to support SB 570 and the goals of SB 574, HB 5281, HB 6014 and HB 6029.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 573 as well as in support of SB 570, SB 574, HB 5281, HB 6014 and HB 6029.

Sincerely,

Evan Preston
ConnPIRG State Director