

**SB 103 AAC The Responsibilities of the Procurement Manager of the Public Utilities
Regulatory Authority and Minor Revisions to Energy-Related Statutes
Energy & Technology Committee, March 1, 2016**

Testimony by Joel N. Gordes, Consultant, dba Center for Energy Security Solutions
38 Brookmoor Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107, (860) 561-0566

Co-Chair Doyle, Co-Chair Reed, Committee Members and staff, my name is Joel Gordes. I am an independent energy consultant representing myself.

In reviewing this legislation there are some concerns on Sections 6 and 7 which read in part:

Sec. 6...[(1) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall include a procurement manager whose duties shall include, but not be limited to, overseeing the procurement of electricity for standard service and who shall have experience in energy markets and procuring energy on a commercial scale.]

Sec. 7...(a) (1) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority or his or her designee shall, from time to time as needed, designate one or more employees of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, who is or are experienced in energy markets and the procurement of energy on a commercial scale, to conduct procurements including, but not limited to, overseeing the procurement of electricity for standard service and suppliers of last resort service.

It is clear that this essentially eliminates the position of Procurement Manager which can be assumed was created to provide a high degree of expertise for those of us who have elected to stay with standard service. There is also have reason to think that selection for such a position would include detailed vetting of a person's qualifications to undertake such a responsibility. Instead, what this bill appears to do is to take one person of unknown and unspecified title or background or a group of them to make some very important decisions for Connecticut ratepayers. While it does use the words "experienced in energy markets and the procurement of energy on a commercial scale," does that not describe the position being eliminated and potentially filled by a group potentially without as much detailed practical experience? Who, as an individual or as a group, would be empowered to sign onto binding contracts which would be required for such transactions. Maybe more importantly, who would be accountable for any problems that such groupthink might produce? Government needs more accountability; not less.

The current system has been working well with evidence that the standard service rate, which is subject to many variances including some beyond our control, should stay in the domain of a single Procurement Manager. This is not only important to those on Standard Service but also affects the actions and pricing of competitive suppliers which makes this position beneficial to all ratepayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.