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February 14, 2017, Aging Committee Public Hearing

Written Testimony on S.B. No. 772 AN ACT REQUIRING EMERGENCY GENERATORS IN CERTAIN HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Submitted by John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Co-Chairpersons Senator Flexer, Senator Kelly and Representative Serra and members of the Aging Committee

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO and also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority. As many of you are aware, Connecticut's Housing Authorities are confronted with continued issues of sustainability.

NAHRO is opposed to S.B. No. 772 as written unless funding is incorporated for the construction, installation and ongoing maintenance of generators as well as funding for social services required for this at-risk population during times of emergency.

As we stated last year, our concerns remain about the potential mandated installation of generators due to the financial constraints already placed on the Elderly/Non Elderly Disabled Portfolio. There is little or no money available to install and maintain this equipment unless funding is allocated. In addition, this year's proposed bill requires each apartment to have power for a minimum of 4-12 hours as opposed to a community center for resident use during prolonged loss of power in the event of a natural disaster. The financial and construction implications are onerous to this fragile housing portfolio.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that CONN-NAHRO appreciates the many efforts of the Legislature to support our industry. We urge you to reconsider this bill as currently written.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rumberger