

TESTIMONY

UIL HOLDINGS CORPORATION (UI/SCG/CNG)

TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE – March 12, 2019

Raised H.B. 1027 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC RESOURCE CENTER

Senators Hartley and Martin, Representatives Simmons and Cummings and the members of the Commerce Committee, on behalf of UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL), the parent company for United Illuminating (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), and wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries of Orange-based Avangrid, Inc., we respectfully offer this testimony in support of Raised House Bill 1027 **AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC RESOURCE CENTER.**

AVANGRID's three Connecticut-based utility companies (UI, SCG, CNG) employ more than 1,400 Connecticut residents, and pay more than \$77 million in property taxes each year to the municipalities they serve.

UI, SCG, and CNG have been supporters of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) since its inception in 1993. A majority of CERC's funding comes from Connecticut's ratepayers via the state's regulated utilities. AVANGRID's regulated companies have provided over \$5 million in funding to CERC's operations over the past 15 years. While we have been proud to support CERC's efforts over the past 25 years, we are excited to see CERC evolve.

Economic development in this state is vital to the success of businesses currently operating here, and new ones entering Connecticut. We support Governor Lamont's goal to broaden CERC's role through a public-private partnership and hope that more members of the business community will invest in CERC's mission. The state's utility companies have played an important role in funding economic development initiatives throughout the past 25 years and it is crucial for Connecticut's entire business community to play a role in attracting and retaining business.

For these reasons, and with these considerations, we support House Bill 1027. You may also contact Al Carbone, Manager, AVANGRID/UIL State Government Relations at (203) 671-4421.