

TESTIMONY

AVANGRID/UIIL Holdings Corporation

The United Illuminating Company/Southern Connecticut Gas/Connecticut Natural Gas

TO THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – February 25, 2019

Proposed H.B. 5287 - AN ACT PERMITTING UTILITY SERVICE VEHICLES TO TRAVEL THE MERRITT AND WILBUR CROSS PARKWAYS WHEN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES.

The United Illuminating Company (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG) and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), subsidiaries of AVANGRID/UIIL Holdings Corporation, would like to offer comments on proposed **House Bill 5287 - AN ACT PERMITTING UTILITY SERVICE VEHICLES TO TRAVEL THE MERRITT AND WILBUR CROSS PARKWAYS WHEN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES.**

The three companies (UI/SCG/CNG) support this proposed bill, and appreciate the work of the proponents for raising it to the Committee's attention.

UI, SCG and CNG have served more than 600,000 electric and natural gas customers for well over 100 years, while employing more than 1,600 state residents. As highly-regulated Connecticut-based companies under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), UI, SCG and CNG all understand their important role during emergency situations, especially major weather events that cause loss or damage of utility services.

One of the continual requests our Company asks the Department of Emergency Management Services during major storm events is to allow our utility vehicles to utilize the Merritt and Wilbur Cross parkways. Generally, access is granted, however, the time required for authorization only delays emergency response.

The Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways are located smack dab in the middle of our UI and SCG territories, and as limited-access transportation routes, provide critical passage to our northern-most municipalities during emergencies.

Having unrestricted access to Merritt and Wilbur Cross parkways will expedite the deployment of emergency crews during emergencies as it would allow us to get to these towns in a more direct route and address public safety concerns, and begin to safely work to restore their priority locations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of proposed House Bill 5287.

If you have additional questions, please contact Al Carbone, AVANGIRD/UIIL State Government Relations Manager, at (203) 671-4421 or albert.carbone@avangrid.com.