

Testimony
of
AVANGRID/UII HOLDINGS CORPORATION
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
Virtual Hearing
HARTFORD, CT
March 4, 2021

S.B. No. 882 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY.

About Avangrid/UII Holdings Corporation: UI, SCG and CNG employ more than 1,400 Connecticut residents. In addition to the employees we directly employ, the electric and natural gas infrastructure and other programs we administer generate hundreds of additional Connecticut-based jobs for contractors and subcontractors. Our infrastructure and projects also generate substantial tax revenue for Connecticut and its municipalities and we are typically the top property tax payer in most of the towns we serve. For the fiscal year July 2019 to June 2020 alone, UI, SCG and CNG paid approximately \$76 million in property taxes to Connecticut towns, and for 2019 we paid an additional \$83 million in gross earnings tax to the State of Connecticut.

Good morning Senators Needleman and Formica and Representatives Arconti and Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for UII Holdings Corporation (UII), the parent company for United Illuminating, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company and Connecticut Natural Gas, and wholly-owned subsidiaries of Avangrid, Inc. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on several raised bills before you today.

The first Raised Bill I would like to comment on is **S.B. No. 882 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY.**

Avangrid understands the threat climate change poses to us all, and we have positioned ourselves to be one of the leading clean energy companies in the country. We support the provisions of this

bill that would lead to the de-carbonization of the electric system as important steps towards making Connecticut a clean energy State. We also believe that information in the hands of consumers can be a powerful tool to mitigate the impact of carbon emissions through simple steps that they can take to make decisions about buying the most energy efficient cars, appliances and homes.

We believe the provisions of this bill will enable consumers to select the most efficient home, just as they would a car or an appliance if they had the information. And while we support the increases in clean energy but we believe the most cost effective approach would be through the current network of service providers already established in Connecticut rather than having DEEP do incremental procurements of efficiency and demand response.

We have long been supporters of efficiency and demand response programs with program offerings for our customers for many years. These programs should be funded at levels commensurate with benefits to and burdens placed upon customers, especially in these difficult times for customers. We would suggest that the committee consider not how much savings DEEP could procure, but how much support ratepayers can afford and provide a dollar limit on the procurements that you feel would be acceptable. In this way we can strike a balance between the clean energy goals of our state and the cost on our customers and your constituents. With this modification we support Senate Bill 882.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these Raised Bills today. UIL appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the conversation to advance Connecticut's energy agenda and protect consumers. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may also contact Al Carbone, Manager of Avangrid/UIL State Government Relations at (203) 671-4421.