BOARD REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE ON LOW-INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS

On February 1, 2016, the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (“Board”) filed its report, *Recommendations to Improve the Implementation of Heating Assistance Programs in Connecticut*, with the state legislature. The report, mandated by the legislature last year in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-41b(e), requires the Board to provide information and/or make recommendations on optimization and coordination of low-income energy assistance and energy efficiency programs in the following areas: current benefits and costs; how to make the programs more accessible and feasible for rental housing tenants; recommendations on maximizing benefits by participating in combinations of energy assistance and energy efficiency programs; how to securely share customer information among program administrators; how to streamline the program application process; and how to improve boiler and furnace replacement programs.

Board members are from organizations that advocate for and/or serve low-income households, including the Office of Consumer Counsel, Operation Fuel, AARP, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, community action agencies, and a number of other groups.

The report notes that ratepayers from Eversource Energy-Electric, The United Illuminating Company, Southern Connecticut Gas Company, Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, and Eversource Energy-Gas support energy efficiency, matching payment, and arrearage forgiveness programs for low-income utility customers through charges on their utility bills. In 2014, ratepayers of the aforementioned companies, except Eversource-Gas, paid $135 million to support the low-income programs. [Note: While Eversource-Gas ratepayers also contribute to the programs, the company did not have the amounts available for the report.] [Here](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/energy/lieab/2016/LIEAB_Implementation_Recommendations_Report.pdf) is a copy of the report.