



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

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**STATEMENT OF CONSUMER COUNSEL ELIN SWANSON KATZ ON NEW ENGLAND JOINT ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT**

(December 6, 2013 – New Britain) Last night, Governor Malloy, along with the other five New England Governors, announced that they have brokered a joint energy infrastructure statement. This joint statement is the start of a regional effort to address some of the systematic problems with our energy supply options here in Connecticut, and I applaud this effort.

First, the New England Governors have made a commitment to a major investment in natural gas pipelines coming in to New England. Connecticut and the rest of New England are at the end of the existing interstate natural gas pipelines, resulting in bottlenecks and supply constraints in times of peak demand - especially during the coldest winter months. This means higher costs to Connecticut families, businesses, and towns when we most need the energy. Additional interstate pipeline capacity should lower natural gas and electricity costs (as a large portion of our electric generation fleet relies on natural gas), and provide greater reliability for our energy supply. This is a major step forward for Connecticut.

In addition, the commitment to an initiative that can support additional transmission lines to bring cleaner electricity into Connecticut is essential to reduce our carbon emissions and help mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change that we have felt so severely here in Connecticut. Access to more renewable energy will also provide lower energy prices, greater energy security, and much-needed fuel diversity to the New England region.

As the ratepayer advocate, I am always focused on opportunities to lower energy prices and promote reliability, as well as working for policies that help Connecticut's consumers. This historic six state endeavor presents an opportunity to accomplish all of these goals, and I thank Governor Malloy and the officials from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

who led this effort. As this joint regional undertaking moves ahead, I look forward to working with them on the details to ensure that the many potential benefits of this agreement reach all Connecticut residents in the form of lower energy costs and a brighter, more secure energy future for our children and future generations.

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*The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ).*