



OCC Presents Perspectives on Energy Issues at Legislature

February 20, 2018

Representatives from the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) presented at the annual informational forum put on by the General Assembly's Energy and Technology (E&T) Committee on February 8th. OCC's Principal Attorney Joseph Rosenthal and Associate Rate Specialist Taren O'Connor spoke to a broad range of issues that are expected to be part of the work the E&T Committee focuses on in the 2018 legislative session.

Connecticut remains the highest-cost state for electricity in the continental U.S. for the residential and "all sectors" categories. The reasoning behind these high electric costs stays at the top of the agenda for legislators as they tackle some inevitable and costly regional explanations, like tree cover and storm costs.

Regional natural gas pipeline capacity remains a concern in Connecticut. Customers can see a sharp increase to their electric rates after a cold snap, which over time ends up being more expensive than the cost of a new or expanded pipeline. Electricity shortages in winter threaten life, health and property, and fuel security risk is a very real danger that needs to be addressed.

The State continues to hold tight to lofty goals around electricity, reliability, efficiency, grid modernization, emissions, etc. These goals all take time, effort and funding to accomplish, and one struggle the legislature is faced with is the aftermath of its recent raid to the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF). Cut by 33% for the next two years, the programs offered through the CEEF are already suffering, making it more difficult for Connecticut to stay on track to meet its efficiency-related goals.

Members of the OCC look forward to working closely with legislators throughout this session, and hope to be helpful in the crafting of new legislation that takes consumers into consideration.

The OCC encourages customers who are interested in taking action on any energy-related legislative matter contact their legislator by visiting www.cga.ct.gov for further [information](#).



Please visit [OCC's website](#).