



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONNECTICUT'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL ADDRESSES
LAWSUIT REGARDING HIDDEN "TAX" ON RATEPAYERS**

(October 18, 2010-New Britain) - Connecticut's Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is aware of the lawsuit recently filed by former State Senator Joseph Markley of Southington regarding the state budget "tax" imposed by the Connecticut legislature on electric ratepayers through a surcharge on electric bills.

"OCC supports any effort to bring this hidden tax to the attention of the public. Connecticut's electric ratepayers already pay some of the highest rates in the nation, and now they will be forced to make contributions to the general fund for non-electric related services through their electric bills," said Consumer Counsel Mary Healey.

This proposal is fundamentally unfair, as it will be collected only from the electric customers of The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) and The United Illuminating Company (UI), yet it will be used as revenue for the benefit of all of Connecticut's citizens, including those who have municipal electric supply and thus do not pay the "tax". This will unfairly burden CL&P and UI's elderly and limited income ratepayers in particular.

OCC has stated its strong opposition to this state budget tax in Docket Number 10-06-20, *Applications of The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company for Issuance of Economic Revenue Recovery Bonds Financing Order* before the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC).

For more information on this surcharge on Connecticut's electric ratepayers, visit www.ct.gov/occ.

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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.