



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Mary J. Healey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Healey Re-Elected President of
National Utility Consumer Organization**

(November 22, 2010 - New Britain) Mary J. Healey, Connecticut's Consumer Counsel, was re-elected as president of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) at its Annual Meeting in November in Atlanta, Georgia.

NASUCA is the leading national association for utility consumer advocates who are designated by the respective laws of their states to represent utility customers' interests before state public utility commissions, state courts and in federal forums such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NASUCA can be found on the web at www.nasuca.org.

"I am honored to be reelected by my peers as president," said Healey. "NASUCA is an outstanding and highly effective utility consumer organization. Many decisions made in Washington have a direct impact on the rates that consumers pay in Connecticut, so this leadership position in NASUCA will help me advocate for their interests. During the coming year, NASUCA's work will continue to focus on raising the visibility and the voice of utility customers in national energy policy debates on such things as affordable rates, reliable and safe service, the role of renewables, the cost of transmission and the smart grid to name a few. We will of course also continue our national advocacy in telecommunications issues and responsibly addressing the aging infrastructure and conservation issues facing many utilities."

NASUCA Executive Director Charles Acquard said: "Healey is obviously highly respected by her consumer advocate colleagues. She will help NASUCA to maintain a significant presence for consumers in the debate on utility issues in Washington and in each of the NASUCA member states."

Also of note, at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) 122nd Annual Meeting, which is held in conjunction with the NASUCA Annual Meeting, a resolution was passed supporting federal legislation to ensure energy

consumers are represented more formally in FERC proceedings by creating a Federal Office of Consumer Advocacy, provided that such an office will not have any preemptive effect on any State regulatory obligation or function. Healey noted, “NASUCA appreciates NARUC’s important support for an office of federal advocate, a voice that joins that of FERC Chairman, Jon Wellinghoff, and looks forward to working with them to make it a reality.”

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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.