



State of Connecticut

Office of Consumer Counsel

Mary J. Healey
Consumer Counsel

The Energy and Technology Committee
February 23, 2010

Raised Bill No. 182, AAC Revisions to the Utility Statutes
Testimony of Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel
Presented by Joseph Rosenthal, Principal Attorney

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed Raised Bill No. 182, *An Act Concerning Revisions to the Utility Statutes*, and supports the bill. The bill provides useful clarifications to various provisions of Title 16, sets more realistic time frames for certain investigations and activities, and clarifies and enhances some provisions of the renewable portfolio standards.

OCC in particular supports Section 1 of this bill, which would give the DPUC more clear authority to hire consultants in federal proceedings. OCC frequently works with DPUC in such federal proceedings, as does the Attorney General's office, and together we have potently protected Connecticut's interests. There are times, though, where OCC has taken an interest in a federal proceeding in which DPUC does not get involved (and vice-versa). For example, OCC has, with the Attorney General's office, pursued objections at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to the budget of ISO New England for several years. OCC therefore asks the legislature to consider adding rights for OCC to also hire consultants in federal proceedings to this Section 1. The expenses of any such consultants would be paid for through the ratepayers, who would presumably experience a net benefit from the hiring of such consultants in most cases. For convenience, OCC has attached a draft of what Section 1 might look like with the inclusion of OCC.

OCC Attachment to Raised Bill No. 182 to Include OCC in Section 1

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