



April 29, 2009

For Immediate Release

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PROPOSAL TO END ELECTRIC CHOICE IS HARMFUL TO CONNECTICUT

Hartford, CT — The Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA), a leading association of retail energy suppliers, strongly opposes the proposal to take away the right of Connecticut residents and small businesses to choose their energy supplier. More than 138,000 Connecticut residential, commercial and industrial consumers, large and small, have used their power of choice to find value and service from competitive retail electric suppliers. Today's proposal would mean higher prices and fewer choices for all customers .

The proposal would hand the right to serve these customers back to the local utility on monopoly basis, despite the fact that competitive offers to small customers are averaging about 15 percent less than the comparable utility service.

“This proposal would be a big step backwards for Connecticut energy customers, taking away choices that can save them money right now and putting them on the hook for bad utility purchases,” said Chris Kallaher, New England Chair of RESA. “In addition to better prices, competitive suppliers are constantly developing innovative products to meet the needs of energy consumers, giving them the customized tools they need to better manage their energy usage. The idea that a single, monopoly provider will bring that kind of innovation and value to consumers has been proven wrong time and again, and the result would be no different today.”

RESA members are providing innovative energy products of the future ranging from budget-conscious fixed-price products to variable-price, green energy and demand response products that encourage conservation and place downward pressure on prices for the benefit of all consumers.

Kallaher also emphasized that the competitive market is helping Connecticut find ways to stimulate the economy through job growth and infrastructure development, including smart grid and advanced metering development. “The green economy of the future needs competition to thrive,” Kallaher said. “This proposal would take the state in the opposite direction and would hurt residents and business just when they can least afford it in this difficult economy.”

About RESA: RESA's members include Commerce Energy, Consolidated Edison Solutions, Inc., Direct Energy Services, LLC, Gexa Energy, Green Mountain Energy Company, Hess Corporation, Integrys Energy Services, Inc., Liberty Power, Reliant Energy Retail Services, LLC, Sempra Energy Solutions LLC, SUEZ Energy Resources NA, Inc., and U.S. Energy Savings Corp. For more information, contact RESA Executive Director Tracy McCormick at (717) 566-5405 or go to www.RESAUSA.org.