



For Immediate Release

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RE-REGULATION BILLS HARMFUL TO CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Hartford, CT (February 24, 2009) — Member companies of the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA), a leading association of retail energy suppliers committed to the advocacy of competitive energy markets, testified today before the Connecticut General Assembly to oppose three bills that combined will eliminate a customer's right to choose their energy supplier, as well as establish an electric procurement structure that will shift cost responsibility from private investors to Connecticut ratepayers.

Specifically, RESA members testified in opposition to: (1) H.B. 6507, which would repeal customer choice for Connecticut residential and business customers with maximum demands below 500 kilowatts effective January 1, 2010; (2) H.B. 6510, which would establish a state power authority; and (3) H.B. 6512, which would replace the customer choice structure repealed by H.B. 6507 with a "managed portfolio" electric procurement structure heavily dependent on ratepayer-backed medium-term and long-term contracts.

"The adoption of H.B. 6507, 6510, and 6512 would represent a significant step backwards for Connecticut energy customers because it eliminates the ability of the state's residential and small and medium-sized business population to shop for a retail electric supplier," said Jay Kooper, President of RESA. "What's more detrimental is the plan to replace the current structure with a failed one-size-fits-all electric procurement structure that, in the past, has exposed Connecticut ratepayers to billions of dollars in stranded costs stemming from utility investment decisions that have done little to contain costs or improve electric system reliability."

In Connecticut, more than 135,000 customer accounts are now buying their electricity supply from a competitive supplier. Additionally, 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.

"Now is the time for Connecticut policymakers to find ways to stimulate the state's economy through job growth and infrastructure development – including smart grid and advanced metering development," added Kooper. "Unfortunately, adoption of this legislation would take Connecticut in the polar opposite direction to the detriment of Connecticut residents and businesses already suffering under the weight of the global recession."

“RESA looks forward to working with Connecticut’s policymakers and stakeholders to continue to ensure that the benefits of choice in all of its forms – economic security, job creation, and energy security and reliability – remain available for Connecticut customers no matter their size or classification,” he continued. “The people and businesses of Connecticut who we all serve deserve no less.”

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About RESA

RESA’s members include Commerce Energy, Consolidated Edison Solutions, Inc., Direct Energy Services, LLC, Gexa Energy, 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.