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THREE CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES ENDORSE NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

Presenting a united front in committing state action to critical energy issues, the Connecticut Departments of Public Utility Control (DPUC) and Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) today endorsed the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, an initiative co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of the plan is an aggressive new national commitment to energy efficiency by electric and natural gas utilities and partner organizations across the country. Commissioner Anne George of the Connecticut DPUC stated: "Connecticut is already a leader in energy efficiency. By joining this national effort, we are continuing our commitment to find additional ways to use energy wisely." The Connecticut endorsement is part of a national kickoff to implement the Energy Efficiency Action Plan announced today at the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) annual meeting in San Francisco.

Governor M. Jodi Rell praised the national plan and cited state agencies' efforts to conserve energy in their building and operations. "We are on our way to achieving a

culture of energy efficiency throughout state government,” the Governor said, “and we can be a model for the business world and non-profit organizations. Without question, the wise use of energy is good for business and residential bottom lines and can help put more dollars into the general economy.”

The National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency is the product of a national Leadership Group of leading gas and electric utilities, state agencies, energy consumers, energy service providers, and environmental/energy efficiency organizations combining public and private sector entities whose stated goal is using energy efficiency as an integral part of the solution to the numerous energy and environmental issues facing the country. Connecticut’s representatives include the DPUC, OCC and DEP. According to Consumer Counsel Mary Healey: “A number of diverse stakeholders are working together to overcome barriers to energy efficiency on both a state and national scale. With the unprecedented rise in electricity prices, we have to pull out all the stops on the energy efficiency front – its benefits are immediate and it is the most economical alternative because it returns \$4 to our economy for every \$1 invested.” Commissioner Gina McCarthy of the Connecticut DEP stated: “Energy efficiency must be the resource of first priority in Connecticut as it does not add emissions to our air, particularly in the non-attainment areas in Southwest Connecticut. Endorsing the National Action Plan is an excellent step Connecticut can take in our continuing challenge to all stakeholders to use energy efficiency practices.”

The National Action Plan includes the following recommendations: recognize energy efficiency as a high-priority energy resource, make a strong, long-term

commitment to implement cost-effective energy efficiency as a resource, broadly communicate the benefits of and opportunities for energy efficiency, promote sufficient, timely, and stable program funding to deliver energy efficiency where cost-effective, modify policies to align utility incentives with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency and modify ratemaking practices to promote energy efficiency investments. These recommendations build upon best practices from successful efficiency programs already operating in many areas, like Connecticut, to remove barriers that have prevented utilities and consumers in the past from pursuing cost-effective energy efficiency resources. If fully implemented nationwide, the plan could help defer the need for 40 new 500 Megawatt-power plants across the country, avoid greenhouse gas emissions equal to those of over 35 million vehicles, lower the costs of air pollution controls, and reduce prices for natural gas.

The collaborative efforts of DPUC, DEP and OCC on energy efficiency issues this year to fulfill Connecticut's energy goals and help implement the national plan include:

1. Working with the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) to treat energy efficiency as a first priority resource in the annual Energy Plan submitted to the Governor.
2. Working with the Energy Conservation Management Board (ECMB) to promote additional cost effective energy efficiency and conservation programs with our electric and natural gas utilities.

3. Working with the Governor's Office and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to meet Governor M. Jodi Rell's directive to all state agencies to reduce electric consumption by 10% in 2006 in state buildings.
4. Working with utilities and the state business community on an energy efficiency education campaign.
5. Working with the ECMB to restore funding to the state's Energy Efficiency Fund.

Recommendations of the National Action Plan can be read in the Executive Summary available at www.epa.gov/cleanenergy.

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