



# State of Connecticut

## Office of Consumer Counsel

**Mary J. Healey**  
*Consumer Counsel*

**The Energy and Technology Committee**  
**March 17, 2009**

### **Raised Bill 1132, AAC ENERGY INEFFICIENT STATE BUILDINGS**

**Testimony of Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel**  
**Presented by Victoria Hackett**

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed and supports Raised Bill 1132, AAC Energy Inefficient State Buildings.

This Bill would establish a new program that would enable the electric distribution companies, Connecticut Light & Power Company and the United Illuminating Company, to work with municipal and state facilities to achieve greater energy efficiency. The new program will apparently have little or no costs for the general class of ratepayers, as the bill provides for repayment of program costs over time by the municipality or the state through a customer-specific facilities charge. It also appears that the program would supplement the good work of the Energy Conservation Management Board and would not draw from the limited resources of the Conservation and Load Management Fund.

OCC has been concerned about the relatively slow pace of energy efficiency installations in state buildings and has been working with other stakeholders for years to try to promote such efficiency. The state should be leading the way in promoting energy efficiency in its own buildings, but, with some exceptions, this goal has not been reached. The OCC is hopeful that the proposed partnership between the electric distribution companies, the state or municipal customers, and local contractors, all with oversight by the Department of Public Utility Control and the Legislature, will break through the difficulties and allow the state to lead with efficiency. Energy cost savings for state agencies (and the General Fund) and municipal agencies and environmental benefits will likely result from these efforts.