

The Energy and Technology Committee

Public Hearing, March 5, 2013

Office of Consumer Counsel

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Testimony of Elin Swanson Katz

Proposed H.B. 5591, *An Act Concerning On-Bill Financing for Energy-Related Technology Upgrades*

This proposed bill seeks to expand on-bill financing programs to residential and small commercial and industrial customers for energy efficiency, renewable energy and smart meter technology. While various financing programs already exist, and others are at various stages of development, OCC is very supportive of an expansion of such programs to install cost-effective measures.

OCC notes that the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) are currently offering utility customers various financing options and are investigating new ways to finance such technologies. While having financing options for different types of customers at various levels of funding is ideal, too many competing options for the same programs could cause customer confusion. Thus, OCC suggests that any new legislation regarding financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies entail coordination with the EEB and CEFIA. OCC would be happy to work with the Committee to further develop the details of that coordination.

With respect to financing for residential smart meter technology, OCC would support such a measure so long as it was done in a manner that is cost-effective for

ratepayers. Since the bill as raised is quite high level, OCC would be happy to discuss any details as they develop.