



State of Connecticut

Office of Consumer Counsel

Mary J. Healey
Consumer Counsel

The Energy and Technology Committee
March 4, 2010

Raised Bill No. 349, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Investments in Underserved Communities

Testimony of Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel
Presented by Joseph Rosenthal, Principal Attorney

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed Raised Bill No. 349, *An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Investments in Underserved Communities*, and supports the bill. The bill would take a small share of the funding from the ratepayer-funded energy efficiency and renewable funds and designate that share for programs for efficiency investments in underserved communities. Although OCC is aware that the Energy Conservation Management Board has had some success in reaching low-income communities for participation in their programs, a more targeted and funded effort may be appropriate and useful. Moreover, the bill apparently seeks to get job training in energy efficiency into the underserved communities so that we can achieve more diversity in the growing efficiency field. OCC also notes that since the proposed program uses a small share of existing ratepayer charges, there should be no negative impact on the general class of ratepayers.