



Low Income Energy Advisory Board

September 13, 2007

Mr. Donald Downes, Chairman
Department of Public Utility Control
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Mr. Downes:

On behalf of the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board (LIEAB), I am writing to respectfully request the financial support in the amount of \$50,000 to secure consultant services to sustain the boards' efforts in fulfilling its statutory mandate.

As you know, Public Act 05-204 established this Board to advise and assist the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) in planning and coordination of low income energy assistance programs. The LIEAB is a highly effective board that is committed to offering recommendations and guidance founded in analysis that is reliable, well-documented and responsive to the needs of the energy programs and its customers.

While membership of the board consists of a variety of stakeholders, the combined expertise does not lend itself for the development of in-depth analysis required to achieve its goals. The procurement of consultation services will ensure that the board is successful in meeting its mandates.

To that end the board is requesting funds be made available through the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC). Section 16-245I of the Connecticut General Statute establishes the SBC as a charge on all electric ratepayers' bills. Further, the statute allows SBC to be used to fund "technical support for energy assistance, fuel bank and weatherization programs/services".

The consultants will be hired to perform the following service:

- Collect, review and analyze information related to low-income energy assistance programs
- Formulate recommendations reflective of the broader context of low-income issues

- Assist in the development of low-income energy assistance programs
- Present recommendations for board consideration
- Provide strategic guidance in terms of moving the board forward
- Assist in the coordination of board functions
- Provide assistance with the coordination of an annual strategic retreat

To provide the necessary fiscal oversight the LIEAB suggests the following administrative process:

- Establish a non-lapsing LIEAB account within OPM
- OPM to oversee fiscal operation of the LIEAB account
- OPM to request SBC funds from CL&P and UI contingent on DPUC's approval
- OPM to develop and maintain fiscal reports which shall be made available to the public upon request
- Unexpended funds may be carried forward into the next year
- OPM to refund unexpended funds on a bi-annual basis

The Board believes that the above request will enhance its work and increase its ability to provide recommendations on energy issues related to the low-income population. I thank you for your continued commitment in assisting the Connecticut's families, particularly, our neediest families.

On Behalf of the Board,
Raymond L. Wilson

Chair
Low Income Energy Advisory Board

Cc: John Betkoski, Commissioner, DPUC
Robert Genuario, Secretary, OPM
John Mengacci, Under Secretary, OPM