

Energy Assistance Programs Available to Connecticut Residents

Private Fuel Banks - Many Connecticut towns have private fuel banks that provide winter energy assistance to local residents. For more information, call Infoline at 2-1-1 and ask for the location of the fuel bank nearest you.

Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Programs - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer assistance programs that can help customers pay a portion of their past due utility bills. There are eligibility requirements in order to qualify. For more information, contact your utility company.

Winter Protection Program (Utility Shutoff Moratorium) - Participants in this program will be coded by their utility companies as "hardship cases" and will not have their utility service shut off between November 1 and April 15 of each year. For more information, contact your utility companies.

Utility Conservation Programs - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer energy conservation materials and services that are free for lower income households. Contact your local utility company for information.

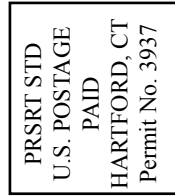
Energy Conservation Loan Program - You may be eligible for a low-interest loan to pay for insulation, energy conservation measures, heating improvements and renewable resource improvements for your home. For more information, contact the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF) toll-free at 1-800-992-3665.

For local aid with energy assistance issues you may also contact the following -

Franklin: (860) 642-6055 ext. 23
Lebanon: (860) 642-4580
Montville: (860) 848-8820 or
the Director's office at (860) 848-0422

The Norwich social services department serves Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon and Montville:

General: (860) 823-5000 or toll-free (800) 473-8909



State Representative Kevin Ryan
Legislative Office Building Room 3804
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
(860) 240-8585 or 1-800-842-8267 – Capitol
(860) 848-0790 – Home
kevin.ryan@cga.ct.gov



State Representative Kevin Ryan

139th District - serving
Bozrah - Franklin - Lebanon - Montville

Making Government Work For You!





Dear Friends:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue being your State Representative. I am honored by your continued trust and confidence in me.

This mailer is designed to provide you with information to make your individual voice heard. Please review each item as it is important to have this basic information prior to testifying before a legislative committee.

Also included is a brief look at some of the winter Energy Assistance Programs available to those who qualify.

As always feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Have a safe winter season!

Sincerely,

Kevin Ryan
State Representative, 139th District

Please Keep in Touch

District: 21 Terrace Drive Oakdale, CT 06370 (860) 848-0790	Capitol: Legislative Office Building, Room 3804 Hartford, Connecticut 06106 (860) 240-8585 - or toll-free 1-800-842-8267
E-mail: kevin.ryan@cga.ct.gov	

Making Your Voice Heard

Speaking at a public hearing is an effective way of getting your point across at the Capitol. I encourage you to get involved. Here's how:

When preparing your remarks, it is important to know the number of the bill which interests you. To get a bill number you can call 240-8585 and request to speak with my aide, or you can access the General Assembly web site at www.cga.ct.gov and do a bill search. It is a good idea to prepare copies of your testimony to be distributed to the committee members at the hearing (the number of copies required varies among committees). Be sure to include a reference to the bill number at the beginning of your testimony.



Most hearings are held in the Legislative Office Building (LOB). TV monitors at the LOB entrances show the location. The daily printed Bulletin also gives this information and lists all bills scheduled for hearing. You can get a Bulletin in the LOB ground floor bill room.



A sign-up sheet is provided inside the hearing room. The sign-up sheet requests your name, the bill number(s) and whether you are for or against the bill. Sign-up sheets are placed in hearing rooms one hour before the hearing begins, unless otherwise announced. Copies of the bills are also available outside the hearing room.

Hearing Procedures

The first hour of a hearing is normally reserved for legislators and agency heads or invited guests. Remaining speakers are called by the co-chairs usually - though not always - in the order that they appear on the sign-up sheet. Some committees hear all testimony on one bill before proceeding to the next, following the agenda printed in the Bulletin.

Most hearings last for several hours and legislators come and go because they are frequently attending more than one meeting or hearing at the same time. This does not mean your testimony goes unnoticed. I recommend providing written copies of your testimony to committee members, in part so that the members can review it even if they missed your actual testimony. All hearings are recorded and transcripts are prepared from the tapes. Some of the hearings are also televised.

Hearings can be lengthy and you may have to wait a while to give just a few minutes of testimony. Your time, however, is well spent because there are occasions where one person's remarks can initiate changes or new direction for a bill.

Your Testimony

When you are called to the microphone, you will be asked to introduce yourself. It is a good idea to mention your town, and the number and title of the bill you are addressing. The content of your testimony should address whether you support or oppose the bill and the reasoning behind your position. It is important to keep your remarks short. In fact, some committees impose a three minute time limit. When you finish, remain seated for a moment, in case committee members want to ask questions.