



## Issue Snapshot: Consumer Advocacy

**Background:** Legislation is pending that would create a new Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate to represent residential utility consumer interests in proceedings before entities such as the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

As an alternative, the creation of an intervenor process for utility rate case proceedings has also been proposed. Utilities would be required to deposit up to \$250,000 of shareholder money to support PSC-approved groups with intervening in the rate case process.

**Company Position:** Con Edison strongly supports consumer representation in proceedings at the PSC. However, the company believes that the creation of an additional state-funded office to intervene is duplicative and unnecessary. Several state-funded entities currently represent consumer interests in utility proceedings.

For example, the Utility Intervention Unit (UIU) of the Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection submits formal comments on proposals or regulations and provides experts to deliver testimony before the PSC. The same is true for the New York State Office of Attorney General which represents consumer interests in utility matters.