



NASUCA

PRESS RELEASE

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ELCON AND NASUCA CRITICIZE “DECOUPLING” LANGUAGE IN STIMULUS BILL

“Large and small electricity consumers are united – quite simply the language in the House of Representatives’ stimulus package that promotes Revenue Decoupling is a misguided federal mandate,” said John Anderson, president of the Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON).

“A one-size-fits-all approach mandating that States adopt one specific regulatory approach to achieve energy efficiency simply does not recognize that different approaches may be more appropriate, depending on the State,” added Charlie Acquard, executive director of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

Anderson and Acquard made their comments in conjunction with their release of a joint ELCON/NASUCA letter (available at www.elcon.org) sent today to congressional leaders. The letter references Section 6001 of the economic stimulus package which the House is scheduled to consider this week. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) sent a letter with similar views in opposition to this section to selected Members of Congress last week.

The ELCON/NASUCA letter states that “large and small consumers oppose any national mandate that favors one type of energy efficiency ‘incentive’ policy over other possible regulatory policies.” It notes that both NASUCA and ELCON members are strong supporters of energy efficiency, but that “mandating all States to adopt a single specific regulatory policy like Revenue Decoupling could delay the implementation of the stimulus package and delay moving energy efficiency programs important to consumers.”

“NASUCA is the national organization of consumer advocates,” stated Acquard. “Consumer advocates are seeking fair treatment – lower rates, reliable service, and energy efficiency – for electricity ratepayers. A federal mandate will not benefit consumers in every State, nor will it necessarily increase energy efficiency.”

“Revenue Decoupling basically guarantees each utility a level of revenue ‘decoupled’ from its volumetric sales,” explained Anderson. “Without Revenue Decoupling, large and small consumers can and will make energy efficient investments, and they will enjoy the savings. With Revenue Decoupling, a utility would manage the energy efficiency program and consumer savings could be reduced or even eliminated in order to maintain the utility’s revenue level. It’s not fair to consumers – that is why we oppose this mandate.”

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NASUCA (www.nasuca.org) is an association of 44 consumer advocates in 40 States and the District of Columbia. NASUCA’s members are designated by the laws their respective jurisdictions to represent interest of utility consumers before state and federal regulators and in the courts.

ELCON (www.elcon.org) is the national association representing large industrial users of electricity.