

**ROBERT FROMER**

*EJD, M.S.E.E., P.C., P.E., R.E.P.*

---

P.O. Box 71 ~ Windsor, Connecticut 06095 ~ USA

E-mail: saintrobert@comcast.net

June 04, 2008

Chairman John Mengacci and Members  
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board  
C/o CERC  
805 Brook Street, Building 4  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3405

Re: **Request for Attorney General Opinion.**

Dear Chairman Mengacci and Members:

In an e-mail from Chairman Mengacci received on Monday, May 19, 2008, 9:03 am to my inquiry, he stated:

- 1) The members of the SWG are paid by their respective agencies for the time they spend on CEAB responsibilities so they are taxpayer funded not ratepayer funded.
- 2) The formation of the SWG was done by consensus of the Board. When the CEAB's membership changed in 2003, the Board agreed that the most economical and efficient way to accomplish its work was to have designees of the state agency Board members work on our behalf instead of hiring staff and building yet another administrative structure. The Board also felt a diverse agency membership on the SWG would provide us with viewpoints necessary to thoroughly vet issues before bringing them to the Board for consideration and vote. Public Act 03-140 sec 16 allows the Board to "employ such staff as is required for the proper discharge of its duties".

I replied to Chairman Mengacci, which I sent on May 19, 2008 at 2:02 pm, with the following:

P.A. 03-140 section 16(e) reads as follows:

(e) The board shall employ such staff as is required for the proper discharge of its duties. The board shall annually submit to the Department of Public Utility Control a proposal regarding the level of funding required for the discharge of its duties, which proposal shall be approved by the department either as submitted or as modified by the department.

CEAB  
Robert Fromer letter  
June 04, 2008

As I read this part of the Act, which you selectively paraphrased, I find that DPUC not taxpayers should provide the funding for the Staff Working Group. Fortunately, I always read everything in toto. Hence, the current arrangement maybe inappropriate irrespective of the consensus within the CEAB.

Based on the above, I request that the CEAB seek a legal opinion from the Attorney General on whether taxpayers or ratepayers fund the Staff Working Group.

Cordially,



---

ROBERT FROMER  
Environmental and Public Interest Consultant