

Connecticut General Assembly  
Energy and Technology Committee  
February 28, 2008  
Testimony of Leslie Kane in Support of  
HB-5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

I, Leslie Kane, 154 North Fair Street, Guilford, CT 06437, am presenting testimony in favor of the "Act Concerning the Right to Dry". When I first heard of this Act I was a bit amused and shocked that such an act would come before the State Legislature, especially the Energy and Technology Committee. This is a low-energy, virtually no technology commonsense issue, but one that everyone should have a right to do. How basic is the right to hang one's laundry out to dry in the sun and wind? Paintings by innumerable artists depict the breeze blowing through laundry as a simple act depicting home and hearth. It is ironic in our culture that this simple act is frequently outlawed as if it were criminal often by closed communities that don't even really think about it when adding it to their "laundry list" of things not to do.

Well, not so long ago I was presented with the dilemma of the tragic death of my overly expensive drier. I live downtown in an historic community and not a few people see my laundry out. Three years ago when my drier died, I was told I would have to replace the "mother board" (Who would have thought a drier needed a "mother board"?) to the tune of nearly \$300 ...so, why don't you buy a new one they said? I quickly realized that that would essentially be throwing money into the wind. Why would I spend \$400- \$500 on another drier only to spend even more money on energy - drying clothes doesn't have to cost money? Now, keep in mind that I am a worst case scenario - I have 2 teenagers who play multiple sports, my husband and myself -that is a lot of laundry. Since the drier passed away, I have hung up multiple loads of laundry every day. Inside in the winter. Outside in the summer. The clothes are fresher in the summer. The air in my house more beneficially humid in the winter. It doesn't take all that much to switch over, just a \$25 investment in a couple of drying racks (low technology, I might add) and enough organization to allow a little drying time.

I cannot imagine how much I have personally saved in electricity. I have no idea how much fossil fuel I have not used. I do know that my monthly electric bills have not gone up as much as my neighbors' have. I do know that my laundry is fresher and my house is more humid in the winter. I also know that I am making a good environmental decision every time I hang that laundry up. Probably most importantly I know that, unless this bill becomes law, I won't be living in a community that unwisely outlaws the hanging of laundry.