

Connecticut General Assembly, Energy and Technology Committee, Feb. 28, 2008

Testimony of Joan W. Benham, 55 Case St., North Canton, CT 06059 in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

I don't live in a condo, but one reason I have resisted moving to a condo is because of clothesline restrictions. I have enjoyed hanging clothes on the line since I was a little girl helping my mother. Now I wash my clothes after 8:00 at night (to save energy) and hang them out the next morning. On a sunny day, that 15 minutes of sunlight also gives me a healthy dose of vitamin D. On freezing winter days, I hang my clothes on lines strung in my basement.

Many people think clothes will be stiff unless they dry them in a dryer, but that is not necessarily true. Too much soap makes clothes stiff, in addition to polluting our groundwater. People need to know about "laundry balls" and other devices which minimize the need for soap in the washer.

Hung out on a windy day, sheets and clothes look pressed and smell wonderful. The sun is a natural bleaching agent so I never need to use bleach in the wash. Colors can fade in strong sun, but if that is an issue, those articles can be hung inside the house.

In these challenging environmental and economic times, everyone should have the right to dry outside, and everyone should be made aware of the positive impact it can have on our environment.

HB 5596 will raise public awareness that it can be easy to reverse some of our destructive energy-guzzling habits. I respectfully urge the legislature to pass this bill.