

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141-0120

Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2008*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5596, An Act Concerning the Right to Dry.

This proposal prohibits municipalities, condominium associations and other associations from restricting a resident's reasonable use of a clothesline or drying rack for the purposes of drying clothes.

Clothes drying has a profound impact on the environment. These appliances are the third highest consumer household's electricity usage -- about 8% of the total. Convenience and social pressure have combined to drive drying indoors. Over the years, community associations have banned outdoor drying. These prohibitions mean residents use more electricity, leading to more pollution and demand for fuel.

Common-sense dictates that residents should be encouraged to reduce clothes dryer use whenever possible. Reasonable restrictions could allow the use of such outdoor drying while addressing community standards for the neighborhood or association. Connecticut should join 10 other states -- including Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina and Utah -- with similar laws.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5596.