



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Connecticut Chapter  
645 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105  
[www.connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org)

Energy Committee  
February 17, 2009  
Testimony in Support of  
HB 5995 AAC The Right to Dry

Following is the original testimony of Connecticut residents in support of HB 5995 as forwarded to the Sierra Club for submission to the Environment Committee. It is submitted unedited, but printed together in order to save paper.

I live for the coming of warm weather (at least above freezing) so can take my laundry basket full of wet, washed clothes (and sheets and towels) outside to hang them on my large, unmistakably pretty revolving, folding clothes line. (I take it in during the months when wet sheets freeze like boards. They don't dry well during that time, so the clothes line gets a rest and I don't have to slide around on the ice)

The other three seasons of the year, I feel reminded that I am part of the natural world which we all live in, while I hang the clothes, the wind blowing my hair gently as it coaxes the water out of the laundry. The scent of freshly dried sheets and towels and t-shirts and, yes, underwear, strategically placed on the inside, so the sheets hide it, cannot be beat. Sometimes I leave the clothes on the line for two days, for I swear, they smell more than twice as good after more time on the line. I am saving energy (lots, as gas dryers and their heat are gas guzzlers) and doing something that is inexpensive (in fact saves me money, lots!) and brings me pleasure. The exposure outside while I hang laundry is a calming, refreshing break in a busy day. Gathering it in and sniffing all the natural goodness makes me know I am doing the right thing. If I lived in a city, I would still hide the underwear behind something bigger. Although I think clothes blowing in the God given wind is beautiful, I am aware that not everyone thinks so. But the time has come when it is just the right thing to do, for so many reasons. Thank-you for considering this no-brainer Bill. sincerely,

Barbara David 344 Joshuatown Road, Lyme, CT. 06371

\*\*\*\*\*

I am a 52 year old woman, living with my husband in a 39 unit condo complex in Stratford, CT. I have always line dried clothing in nice weather, from the time I completed university, as I always appreciated the wonderful smell of line dried clothing, the reduction in the amount of ironing I had to do as a result, and how nicely clean and bleached the white clothes would appear, without the use of harsh chemicals.

Even before the current economic downturn, I tried to hang my clothing outside at this complex, and was informed that it was against the bylaws. I tried to have the bylaws changed, and was told

that no one wanted to see my clothing hanging. Our garage faces no ones unit, and is at the very back of the complex, so I hung clothing on a standing rack on my garage apron, and was warned I would be fined. I then moved the hanging to inside the garage with lattice covering the garage door, allowing air flow, but not exposing my neighbors to my hanging clothing, and was again warned that I was in violation of condo rules.

We must have legislation protecting the right to dry clothing! It saves money, so critical in this awful economic environment, when every penny matters. It has no negative environmental impact as opposed to using electricity or gas to dry clothing, at a time when we must make huge adjustments to our carbon footprint, and each small step adds up to significant positive change. It reduces the need for environmentally damaging, costly chemicals like bleaches, and also reduces the need for ironing, again a positive for the environment.

This is a time when much must change, and this is a very small change that can have a really significant impact, while doing NO harm. It is win-win, and I cannot imagine any reason not to support such legislation.

Ronnie Dubrowin  
303 Hickory Woods Lane  
Stratford, CT 06614-1674  
203-612-8268  
RonMidwife@aol.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Count me in! I believe that the option to dry clothes in the fresh air and sunshine should be commended and preserved. It is one more way to break the chain of dependence on energy from outside sources and to keep us active!

Thank you for your efforts!!!!

Cheryl Cappiali  
234 Grinnell Street  
Milford, CT 06461-2408  
RonMidwife@aol.com

\*\*\*\*\*

I am writing in support of the clothesline bill. In this time of energy and economic crisis it seems a perfect time to finally give support to this simple, clean and cost-free bill. I use a close line 9 months out of the year. I choose to do laundry on the days when the sun is shining. My clothes smell wonderfully clean and fresh and it is one small thing I can do to reduce my carbon footprint. I believe everyone, no matter where they reside, should have the same opportunity to do this one simple and very right practice of hanging clothes on a line.

Sincerely,

Christin Arnini. Bethany, CT