



Connecticut Chapter
645 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
www.connecticut.sierraclub.org

Energy and Technology Committee
February 17, 2009
Testimony in Support of
HB 5995 AAC The Right to Dry (2009)
and
HB 5596 AAC The Freedom to Dry (2008)

Attached is the original testimony of Connecticut residents in support of HB 5995 as forwarded to the Sierra Club for submission to the Energy Committee. It is submitted unedited, but printed together in order to save paper. Testimony from other individuals from the 2008 session in support of HB 5596 as submitted to the Sierra Club is also included, indicated with the designation "(2008)". Testimony from a total of 146 residents is included.

Maureen Abrahamson, Fairfield
Carmen Acevedo, MSW, LPN, Meriden
Tom and Connie Adamski, Oxford
Chris Alonzo, Seymour
Shirley B. Backus, Stratford
Douglas Baldwin, Guilford
Andy Bauer, Portland
Joan Benham, North Canton
David Bingham, Salem
Diana Blair, Old Lyme
Lynne Bonnett, New Haven
Monique Bosch, Westport
Barbara Braunstein, Winsted
Robert L. Broach, East Haven
Barbara Burghart, Bridgeport
Donna Burkhart, Canton
Lisa Candels, Barkhamsted
Colin Carlson, Coventry
Charles Cobb Ph.D, Old Saybrook
Wendell and Susan Coogan, Rocky Hill
Ruth Ellen Corbett, Avon
Chris Corcoran, West Hartford
Caitlin Corner-Dolloff, West Hartford
Chris Craig, Goshen
Nancy Crider, Woodbury
Noreen Cullen, Glastonbury
Sally Davies, Greenwich
Carol Davis, Norwalk
Joe Dawkins, Avon
Eugene A. DeJoannis, P.E., Farmington
Dennis Desmarais, Glastonbury
Geraldine A. Dickel, New Haven
Sarah Donovan, Easton
Barbara Doyle, East Hartford
Cheryl Drezek, Orange

Richard H. Dyer, Jr. M. D., Watertown
Mary-Ann Ellison, South Meriden
Leonard Engel, Hamden
Diane Ethier, Pomfret Center
Lee Evans, New Canaan
Louise Fabrykiewicz, New London
Letitia L. Ferguson, Fairfield
Richard S. Field, North Haven
Jennifer Freeda, Stamford
Judi Friedman, Canton
Charles Gagliardi, West Hartford
Patrice Gillespie, Wilton
Dawna Glave, Bloomfield
Joel Gordes, West Hartford
Jeanie Graustein, New Haven
Evan Griswold, Old Lyme
Julia Guarneri, New Haven
Lori S. Guillard, Windham
Timothy Hackett Everett, West Hartford
Peg Hall
Tom Hanford, Goshen
Susan Forbes Hansen, West Hartford
Wende and Richard Harper, Stamford
Henry Haskell, Guilford
Margaret Holton, Norwalk
Allen E. Horner, Southington
Vince Hough, Norwalk
Barbara Hudson, Canton
Linda R. Isham, Suffield
Alison L. Johnson, Middletown
Beth Jones, New Canaan
Laurie Julian, Bloomfield
Leslie Kane, Guilford
Jack Kaplan, Hamden
Mary Keane, Trumbull

Jonathan Knisely, MD, New Haven
Wanda Kopec, Cos Cob
Becky Latimer Kreczko, Weatogue
Jane Latus, Canton
Scott & Rebecca Lehmann, Storrs
John Levin, Norwalk
Peter Libre, Norwalk
Julie Lyonn Lieberman, Newtown
Peggy Loeffler, Colebrook
Donna Luddie, Guilford
Christina Lumbreras, Glastonbury
Christel Manning, New Haven
Lindsay Methews, Branford
Moiria McCloskey, Hamden
Patrick McCord, Westport
Molly McKay, Mystic
Peter McKnight, Fairfield
Esther Mechler, Trumbull
Ken Merrifield, Rocky Hill
Priscilla Miller, West Cornwall
Doug Miller, Winsted
Paula Moriarty, Moodus
Kathleen Morosky, Uncasville
Theresa C. Murphy, Trumbull
Nancy Nahmias, West Hartford
Karen Nangle, New Haven
Jason M. Natelle, West Hartford
Sian Nimkoff, Weston
Sharon M. Ober, Harwinton
Elsa Peterson Obuchowski, Norwalk
Carole Osborn, Oxford
Dr. Katharine Owens, Bloomfield
C. Thomas Paul, Madison
Laura Pence, Newington
Katherine A Peterson, Terryville
Lisa Piastuch Temmen, Newtown
Joyce Powzyk, Middletown
Stacey Prince, Westport
Cynthia Rabinowitz, Bethlehem

Zoe Cummings Resch, New Haven
Anton Rick-Ossen, Hartford
Edwin Rosenberg, Danbury
Jaclyn Rothenberg, Stratford
Tim Ryan, Trumbull
Nina Sakun, Hartford
Virginia and David Schneider, Woodbridge
Georgina Scholl, Redding
Kathleen Schomaker, Hamden
Jane Servadio, Milford
Patricia Shaskin, East Hartford
Scott and Monica Shuler, Simsbury
Barbara Smyth, New Britain
Carol Springer, Willington
Richard Stanley, West Simsbury
Susan Stauffacher, Roxbury
Roma Stibravy, Norwalk
George Stone, West Hartford
Sheila, Tom and Maggie Sullivan, Fairfield
Catherine Sweeney, Milford
Kerry Swift, Brookfield
Muriel W. Test, Middletown
Peg & Mike Toto, Redding
Jean-Ellen M. Trapani, Westport
Barbara van Achterberg, Easton
Sharon Vocke, Southington
Mike Wallace, Monroe
Eve Wantuch, Farmington
Susan Weldon, Madison
Don and Suzan Weller, Niantic
Jay Whelan, Ridgefield
Charlotte White, Guilford
Deborah Wilson, Vernon Rockville
Donna Worst, Ledyard
Chris Wrinn, Milford
Jennifer Yoxall, Durham
Carol Zaffino, Branford

I have a clothesline in my backyard in Fairfield, CT. I dry my sheets, towels and jeans outside as soon as the weather starts to get warm. It saves on energy and I love the smell of fresh sheets in the springtime.

My family does it for myriad reasons: save energy, reduce global warming and because they smell so good. I would find it ridiculous for someone not to be able to enjoy this free pleasure. Get this bill passed!!! And, if you don't use a clothes line now, start! You don't know what you are missing and you may help our earth in the process!!!

Maureen Abrahamson

278 Wood House Road Fairfield, CT 06824

I use my clothesline as often as I can to save on enrgy and the cost of the energy. I believe it is irresponsible of anyone to tell the public that they can't use a clothesline while we are in the midst of a huge financial catastrophe. Families save money by using clotheslines and save energy. In addition, clotheslines are not ugly and I am certainly not offended when I see my neighbors laundry hanging outside. There is nothing that smells better than laundry that has been dried outside. No laundry detergent or dryer sheet can replace that smell. The smell of the great outdoors.

I am truly sorry that I will not be able to attend the hearing on Tuesday as I work. I am a social worker in the health care field and find my job emotionally satisfying. If I told my patients that "there was a new law that prevented them from drying their clothing outside, they would laugh at me. No one would believe me. So I am asking you to please not ban clotheslines. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Acevedo, MSW, LPN

14 Linden St. Meriden, CT

My family has always owned an electric clothes dryer, but has used it only a couple of times per year, as we always dry our clothes on an outdoor clothesline or in inclement weather, on an indoor drying rack. There are many advantages to natural drying methods.

Outdoor drying results in;

Less wear on the clothes so they last longer

Fresher better smelling clothes

A large reduction in electricity or gas consumption

A reduction in winter heating costs, as dryers suck heated air out of the house and blow it outside

A cooler house in summer because the appliance does not give off heat indoors

Using outdoor clotheslines can contribute a great deal to energy conservation, thereby reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses, and importation of foreign oil. Bans on outdoor clotheslines should not be permitted in Connecticut or anywhere else.

Tom and Connie Adamski

17 Council Dr Oxford, CT 06478

To Whom It May Concern:

When I bought my home in Seymour in 1999, I was surprised to find out at the closing that I would not be allowed to use a clothesline to dry laundry. I figured I didn't have any choice in the matter and that it was common practice in Connecticut. Where I grew up on Long Island, many people used clotheslines, including my family. I never imagined it was a privilege that could be taken away.

In 1999, when I bought my home, the price of propane was \$0.90 per gallon. Now it is \$2.60 per gallon. According to research, as of November, 2006, Connecticut had the third highest electric rates in the country, behind Hawaii and Massachusetts. There has been much news about possible 50% rate increases this year.

Regardless of whether I choose to use propane or electricity, it is expensive to dry my laundry. Some people may find clotheslines to be unsightly. I could live with some minor restrictions relating to where on the property a clothesline can be located, such as it should be behind the house and at least 10 feet from the property lines. It is time to remove restrictions on clotheslines.

Concerned Home Owner,

Chris Alonzo

9 Country Club Road Seymour, CT 06483 (2008)

Not allowing people to air dry their laundry is selfish and foolish. Clothes dryers are expensive to buy and costly to run. They are a drain on our environment and do nothing to help the economy. Please let us air dry our clothes!

Shirley B. Backus
181 Ridge Road Stratford, CT 06614

Pass the "Right To Dry" bill.

Douglas Baldwin
124 Andrews Road Guilford, CT 06437

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

Feb. 28, 2008

Testimony of Andy Bauer in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry.

Clearly, with the status of our energy system, we need to promote every opportunity to conserve.

I am saving energy and dozens of dollars each month with my clothesline, yet my 81 year old mom (on a fixed income), can not. This is because she lives in a condominium governed by a close minded association that will not allow the use of clotheslines. In terms of saving energy, this bill is the definition of 'low hanging fruit' and I strongly urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Andy Bauer
256 Old Marlborough Tnpk Portland, CT 06480 (2008)

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 5995 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.

Joan Benham
55 Case St. North Canton, CT 06059

To The Environment Committee:

Meeting the State's goals for energy reduction requires each of us to do our parts. Drying our laundry outside is a significant energy saving that is simple and efficient.

We as a people have aired our laundry in the past and need to do more of it in the future. Unfortunately, in some places it is illegal! Such restrictions do not make sense.

If there is an offense to someone's sensibilities, there should be local provisions to make aired laundry less visible. But an outright ban? Ridiculous. There ought to be a law!

David Bingham
50 White Birch Rd Salem, CT 06420

This is very sensible legislation. People should be able to hang out their laundry. If they live where it is restricted those restrictions should be eliminated providing they make an effort to use a fence or shrubs to hide the line. I've been using an outdoor umbrella stand for laundry for many years. It is a pleasure to hang out the laundry. My outdoor laundry season is

April - Oct. People should be educated about bringing the laundry in at the end of the day and maybe folding up the umbrella stand or rolling in the line. Line drying saves a lot of energy and can help us conserve. It makes sense.

Diana Blair

235 Mile Creek Road Old Lyme, CT 06371-1815

I live in a condominium in New Haven CT that has restrictions on drying clothes outside or hanging any items outside of the units except for seasonal decorations and flags.

I do think that condominiums should try to accommodate people's desires to dry their clothes outside, for example by using racks with screens to prevent neighbors from having unwanted laundry in their midst, or using the natural architecture to prevent neighbors from viewing the laundry.

The benefits of drying clothes outside are:

- Sunlight is a disinfectant - 20 minutes of exposure to UV light from sunlight kills bacteria after having been washed in detergent or soap saving the environment from hazardous chemicals
- Drying clothes outside saves energy and money
- Clothes that have been dried outside smell better.

I hope that you will include language that requires condominiums to try to accommodate residents that would like to be able to dry clothes outside.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bonnett

675 Townsend Avenue # 169 New Haven, CT 06512

By passing the "right to dry" bill this legislative session, you are sending a strong message to legislators and citizens, raising awareness about the benefits of line drying our clothes; something people rarely think about these days. These are the types of measures the legislature can do now. It costs nothing, it empowers many and sends a clear signal that there are simple ways to improve energy efficiency.

I have had a clothesline over the past year and have noticed a measurable reduction in electricity usage. Dryers are one of the most energy intensive devises in homes. Line drying clothes is easy, saves money and is easier on your clothes (plus it smells so fresh!)

Everyone should have the right to hang dry their clothes. This bill would encourage this practice, allowing others to reap the benefits of this simple practice.

I hope you will strongly support our "right to dry". Thanks for listening.

Monique Bosch

7 Hawthorne Lane Westport, CT 06880

In the past I have used clotheslines to dry my clothes. Not only are they fresher, they dry nicer than in a dryer. When I started working everyday, I went back to using a dryer.

In this time when as Americans we are hit hard with financial problems, every bit we do to save money is important. This is also true about saving energy.

People who live in apartments and condos should have the same ability to save money as I do as a homeowner in a rural area. There are no restrictions where I live, and there should be none for others.

Barbara Braunstein

150 Rugg Brook Rd. Winsted, CT 06098-2400

I absolutely believe that condo and homeowner associations should not be restricting people from using clotheslines.

Line drying clothes:

- saves the energy that would be used by an automatic dryer
- greatly increases the life of the clothes (saving even more enerand money)
- gives the clothes a fresh smell far superior to any "fresh scenadded to laundry products

At this moment in history, energy sustainability is an overwhelming national and global priority for the human race

and the entire global ecosystem. It is unconscionable for anyone to believe that their personal objection to a laundry-filled clothesline is more important than that.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Broach
63 Coleman St; #6 East Haven, CT 06512-4171

Add my name to the supporters of the Clothesline bill for discussion 2/17. I hope I can help, I support it both of course for lower energy use, and so many in apartments and homes without electric dryers.
Barbara Burghart

February 28, 2008 Testimony of Donna Burkhardt in Support of Hb5596
An Act Concerning the "Right to Dry"

Dear All,

I Am Writing in Support of this Bill. Being a Country Girl, and an Avid Clothes Line Diva, I Know First Hand How Importance of Hanging One's Clothing on a Line.

It Not Only Saves Us Energy by Using Our Incredible Sun, it Also Lowers Energy Bills, Lessens the Use of Fossil Fuels, and Can Be Most Therapeutic. There Is Nothing in the World Quite like Slipping into Your Bed after Making it with Sheets That Have Been Hung on a Clothesline. If You've Never Had the Experience, Then You Are Missing out on One of Life's Greatest Pleasures.

I Say "Yes" to the "Right to Dry"

Thank You!!
Donna Burkhardt
6 Bel Aire Lane Canton, Ct. 06019 (2008)

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

Testimony of Lisa Candels in Support of HB 5596
"An Act Concerning the Right to Dry"

Dear Members of the General Assembly and of the Energy and Technology Committee:

One of the nicest things in the world is the smell of sun-dried sheets. It is also a sign of wise use of resources- the free, sanitizing, deodorizing use of sunshine and fresh air. When I was growing up in Avon CT I learned that there was a neighborhood of large new homes that had a list of forbidden actions and activities. Among the forbidden actions was having a clothesline. I was appalled as clotheslines are such an excellent way of saving energy thereby reducing fossil fuel use and greenhouse gases. I also felt that it was very un-American- telling people how to live on their own property.

It is critical that you as members of the Energy and Technology Committee pass this bill. Anything that makes it easier for all of us to do our part in conserving energy is a good thing. It is interesting to note that in my most recent electricity bill, hanging clothes to dry was listed as a good way to conserve energy and money. No one should be disallowed this right.

Thank you for your work.

Lisa Candels
P.O. Box 375, Pleasant Valley 36 East River Road Barkhamsted, CT (2008)

I am an honors junior at the University of Connecticut, working towards a BS in ecology and evolutionary biology and a BA in environmental studies. I also run the Cool Coventry Club, a climate change organization in Coventry, and am on the steering committee of the Connecticut Youth Activist Network.

I believe that it is very important that all Connecticut citizens have the right to use clotheslines to dry their clothing and other fabrics. Using a clothesline saves energy and money, and keeps greenhouse gasses from clothes dryers out of the atmosphere. Using clotheslines also reduces stress on the energy grid during times of high use, thus reducing the risk of brown outs during the summer.

A large part of the Cool Coventry Club's mission is to educate people about what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint and to increase positive attitudes about energy conservation. As a student of psychology, I know that one of the best ways to encourage and maintain positive behavior change is to get people to see themselves as people who care about an issue and are capable of changing their own behavior. The best way to accomplish this is suggest actions to people that are simple, easy and inexpensive; once people find that they are capable of making small changes in their lives, they are much more open to making bigger, more impactful changes. The freedom to use clotheslines is therefore extremely important, because clothesline use allows people to feel that they are becoming part of the solution to our global climate crisis, and this makes them want to contribute even more.

In 47 events that I have held around New England during the past few years, I have encouraged people to pledge to make three changes in their energy use behaviors, and I can tell you that using a clothesline is one of the most popular pledge choices of the more than 900 people with whom I've spoken. Whereas many individuals are reluctant to engage in behavior such as carpooling, the people I've spoken with say that hanging their clothes to dry feels like a positive and fun thing they can do to help themselves and the planet. This is important, because once they are engaging in simple behaviors like using clotheslines, people are much more likely to start participating in more difficult actions like signing up for the Clean Energy Option or installing solar panels.

Hanging clothes to dry isn't just about drying clothes; it's about getting everyone to make a commitment to our planet. By enacting this bill, the legislature will cost the state of Connecticut absolutely nothing, while sending a message that our leaders care about conservation. This bill does not require anything of the state or of individuals – it simply ensures that people won't be prohibited from doing the right thing at their own homes. I truly hope that the legislature will "pledge" this simple, easy change by passing this bill, so that we all have the freedom to behave in a way that

Colin Carlson
640 Merrow Road Coventry, CT

Clotheslines are important for our environment. Clothes dryers' account for around 5% of our home electrical usage with the attendant production of CO2. Drying by sunlight can take pressure off family finances and is free from harmful CO2.

Every step that we can take to diminish global warming seems worthwhile to me. You? Please pass the above referenced legislation.

Charles Cobb Ph.D
24 Whitney Avenue Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (2008)

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
February 28, 2008

Testimony of Wendell and Susan Coogan in support of HB 5596, An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

Drying one's laundry on a clothesline or drying rack is such a simple, yet profound act that each of us can do to reduce the amount of energy we use every day.

We have been using our clothesline for as long as we've been doing laundry. We live on a quiet, well-kept suburban street, and no one has ever complained about the sight of our "solar clothes dryer." In fact, we have received compliments on our being the most conservation-conscious people in the neighborhood. Other neighbors have joined us in recent years.

It is amusing to us that condo complexes, which typically have trash bins and dumpsters readily visible, should find something objectionable in seeing clean laundry blowing in a summer breeze. We thought those types of objections went out with buggy whips and silent movies.

It seems unconscionable to us that in today's energy-starved world, that anyone would be prohibited from doing

something that clearly helps to make the planet a little greener and a little cleaner.

We are asking that you please support HB 5596. Thank you.

Wendell and Susan Coogan
69 Bayberry Lane Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (2008)

I think that I shall never find
A thing as useful as a line.

You peg the clothes and let them dry
By sun and breeze, from the blue sky.

No carbon print or 'lectric meter
For the sol is your free heater.

No greenhouse gas or fossil fuel
The "green"clean air is your prime tool.

Time can make the oil or coal
But only you can have a goal...

So use the line and save your money
Cause global warming isn't funny.

A bad lift from Joyce Kilmer!!

Ruth Ellen Corbett
171 Huckleberry Hill Rd Avon, CT 06001

As this state faces unprecedented changes in the economy and global climate, I feel it is imperative to support people as much as possible as they take steps to trim their budgets and improve efficiency. One simple step that many have taken is a switch back to line drying their clothes. There is no better source for drying clothes than the sun and not only does it save money on people's electric bills, it also reduces the load on our states electric grid. When the grid is under the most stress, hot summer months, is the time most folks would be able to take advantage of the sun's power to dry clothes and leave their dryers off.

No person in the state should be restricted from line drying his or her clothes. In some cases people don't have the financial means to do "one thing" as the governor has asked them to do, so if the only thing they can do is line dry clothes, they should be free to do so wherever they live. Please send the right message to the people of this state who want to do the right thing or one thing and pass the Clotheslines (Right to Dry) bill.

Chris Corcoran
96 Quaker Lane North West Hartford, CT 06119

Clothes lines are a benefit to society financially and environmentally, and should not be prohibited. Currently 1 in 6 people in the United States are prohibited from using clothes lines, and this is unacceptable. Every citizen should have the opportunity to choose to use clothes lines if they desire.

From a financial standpoint, prohibiting clothes lines imposes costs on our every day lives that is unnecessary and burdensome. This will disproportionately effect low income families that need to save money at every possible opportunity, especially in the current economic climate. When clotheslines are prohibited we as a society are saying we value our aesthetics over giving families an opportunity to save their hard earned income.

Environmentally, it is imperative that clothes line use is allowed as an alternative to using electric dryers, which are highly energy intensive. Climate change is the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, and we as a society should be doing everything in our power to conserve energy and reduce consumption of fossil fuels. Drying clothes is an area where we have a cheap and easy alternative to our energy intensive actions, and we should embrace this opportunity to decrease our energy use.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of H.B. No. 5995 (2009), and in doing so allowing everyone the right to use clothes lines.

Thank you
Caitlin Corner-Dolloff
86 Dover Road 3rd Floor West Hartford, CT06119-1214

In the last few days, I have received numerous emails concerning cuts to environmental programs. These include elimination of the Invasive Plants Working Group and the Council on Environmental Quality, loss of DEP positions in an agency that has sustained many cuts over the years while its land holdings and demand for services has increased. While I understand that these are extraordinary, even desperate, economic times, many of the environmental consequences of inaction will be irreversible.

Additionally, the Governor has proposed transferring Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Fund moneys to the general fund. Rajendra Pachauri, Co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), said in a recent interview, "... there's enough observed evidence to say warming of the climate is unequivocal and that over the last five decades or so, the bulk of that warming has taken place as a result of human actions." "We in the IPCC have estimated that to stabilize global temperature increases at just

2o to 2.4o Celcius (3.6 to 4.3o Fahrenheit), we have only about 7 years to turn around global emissions of greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide. By 2015, they will have to peak. By 2020, we'll need to put in place a 25 to 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions." (Science News, January 3, 2009 pg. 32) Failure to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint now will lead to dire climate consequences in the future and will disproportionately impact the poor of the world. Connecticut has been a model for the country in the climate change area. I would strongly urge

you to keep these programs intact!

I would also ask you to support the Clotheslines (Right to Dry) bill for the same reason. This legislation would allow everyone of us to have a positive impact on climate change.

Sincerely,
Chris Craig
352 Old Middle St. Goshen, CT 06756

There can be no more compelling reason for communities to allow clotheslines than today's energy crisis. For years I have relied on air drying my laundry as a means to help reduce my home energy costs. The ability to continue to do so is even more important now in this era of rising utility rates and the nation's pressing need to address energy issues that threaten our environment. Everyone in my neighborhood uses clotheslines - everyone in the state, with reasonable restrictions if necessary, should be allowed to do so also. Laundry drying on clotheslines is an iconic image in this country, celebrated by such renowned artists as Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, Grant Wood and dozens of others. How then can clotheslines be aesthetically offensive? And besides, clothes dried in the sun and wind feel and smell so good!

Nancy Crider
481 Main St North Woodbury, CT 06798-0016

Dear All;

I am writing in support of HB 5596, An Act Concerning the Right to Dry. It is an appropriate bill for Connecticut to have on its books for many reasons: 1) It is a simple way to save energy; 2) It saves the individual money; 3) It reduces carbon emissions by reducing the use of electric and gas dryers; 4) People should have the right to their personal use of the sun and wind.

I have been hanging my laundry for most of my adult life on drying racks and I can say that it is an easy way to reduce the usage of energy from the electric grid, while at the same time reducing the wear and tear on clothing and linens. It is counterintuitive to me that our current status is to require that people not use the sun in a way that saves them money, draws less from the grid, and pollutes the common air less in some cases in our society.

Imagine what one person can save by using the sun and wind to dry their laundry over the course of a lifetime. Now multiply that across the state of Connecticut.

I urge you to take this important step toward fewer carbon emissions and less energy use.
Noreen Cullen
30 Delmar Rd Glastonbury, CT (2008)

Having grown up in England at a time when everyone had a clothes line, this was the normal method of drying laundry - and still is for many. I am a dedicated user of an outdoor clothes line in all but the most inclement weather. Why

not utilize the free energy of the sun and wind. Aside from the obvious saving of electricity and emissions produced by using a dryer, nothing beats the fresh smell of sheets and shirts dried out in the open. Stretching and hanging laundry provides great exercise for the arms and minimizes the need for ironing.

I would definitely support a bill to permit clotheslines. With sensible use, we should all be able to take advantage of Nature's good drying days.

Sally Davies

19 Lawrence Street Greenwich, CT 06830

Everyone should be allowed to use clotheslines if they wish to. My condo does not provide a drying area and the condo declaration does not allow residents to hang anything (including laundry) in the common area. This means that to avoid running the dryer I must hang bathing suits, towels and laundry inside my home. Since there is no basement and the attic is not easily accessible, my laundry must be hung in the living area.

I am aware that unnecessary use of electricity adds to global warming and increases my electric bill. When I lived in a single family home this was not an issue. For many years I dried laundry outside all year round. Not only did I love the smell of fresh laundry, but things did not wear out as fast.

Carol Davis

199 Gregory Blvd. C-3 Norwalk, CT 06855-2643

We live in Avon and use our clothesline daily in the summer and fall. It's lots better than running the dryer. In winter and spring we set up a rack on our enclosed porch for drying and use the dryer to finish off the clothes. I've always thought that banning clotheslines was silly and maybe a bit snobbish also. Given the economic times and the environmental issues we face it is time our lawmakers get real about what is important.

I support this bill and hope it passes.

Joe Dawkins

48 Beverly drive Avon, CT 06001

We have never owned a dryer in our 40 years of raising 4 children. Not because we cannot afford one, but because we consider them unnecessary and wasteful. We have clotheslines inside and outside our 1900 sq. ft up-scale colonial home. There are no restrictions in our neighborhood preventing them, but there are at my mother's condo nearby. We struggle to keep our electric use below 250 kWh per month for 2 adults (2600 kWh/ year - less than half our state average), and an important means of doing that is NO dryer.

In the US we use twice as much energy per capita as Europeans or Japanese, so we have a lot of conserving to do. There are no energy star clothes dryers, because they require so much energy to evaporate the water from clothes. We must promote clothesline use to trim our energy use to much lower levels and reduce our air pollution and global warming contribution. Why not wait for the clothes to dry on a line; in winter you will get a nice side affect of added humidification in the house and help save the planet too ?

vanZelm, Heywood & Shadford, Inc

Eugene A. DeJoannis, P.E.

10 Talcott Notch Road Farmington, CT 06032

I do not understand the logic upon which someone can prevent their neighbors from using a clothesline as means to dry their laundry to either save money and/or limit their environmental impact. I am guessing that the rationale is that these clotheslines somehow are a blemish upon a persons view and therefore the neighbor does not have the "right" to mar the view of those who live nearby. If that is in fact the logic, then it should stand that I should be able to stop my neighbor from driving a big gas guzzling SUV. That gas guzzler emits lots of CO2 and other harmful emissions that contributes to many blemishes upon my view -- the amazing beauty of nature is tarnished every day by my neighbor's Hummer.

Do I have the right to forbid my neighbor from tarnishing my view of nature by preventing him from driving a Hummer? The answer to that question is regrettably "no". However, given that I do not have that right, so too should my neighbors not have the right to forbid me to harm their view by hanging a clothesline in my backyard.

Regards,

Dennis Desmarais

252 Wood Pond Road Glastonbury, CT 06033

I think that the right to dry bill is very important both for environmental reasons and economic reasons. I have

always hung my clothing out to dry, as did by mother before me. Just a generation ago, no one had driers. Hanging out clothing to dry makes use of the free, renewable, non-polluting energy of the sun. A side benefit is that clothing hung out to dry lasts longer than clothing dried in driers. It is ironic that companies spend lots of advertizing money trying to convince us that various detergents will make our clothes smell fresh, when line drying clothing outside will do that without special chemical formulas. I would not live in a place that banned the use of clotheslines.

Geraldine A. Dickel
190 Nicoll St New, Haven CT 06511-2624

Using a clothesline to dry clothes outdoors is a great way to cut electricity use. It is a great way to deodorize and freshen clothes. I do not consider clotheslines blight. Instead they are a sign of industry and environmental awareness. Call me a Luddite, but there is great pleasure I the rhythm of hanging up and taking down the laundry. To restrict the use of clotheslines does not make sense. Please pass legislation barring anyone from preventing the use of one of the greatest inventions of all times, the clothesline.

Sarah Donovan
103 North Park Avenue Easton, CT 06612

CT General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee February 28, 2008
Testimony of Barbara Doyle in support of HB 5596 'An Act Concerning the Right to Dry'

I believe that people should be allowed to use clotheslines and drying racks. We need to be serious about our use of fossil fuels and nuclear energy sources. The sun's energy is free. We need to be mindful of conservation of non-renewable resources. We need to be less wasteful in our society in many ways.

In my own home I have a dryer which I use sparingly. Most of my clean clothes come out of the washer and are either hung up on plastic hangers, or draped over drying racks. All citizens should have these options, along with the availability of clotheslines, to help save resources and to save money. Again, the sun's energy is free.

Please support HB 5596 and make this option available to all of CT's citizens.
Thank you.

Barbara Doyle
51 Britt Road East Hartford, CT 06118 (2008)

Everyone should have the right to use a clothesline!! I think it is absurd what the expectations of our society are! We teach our kids to recycle, turn off lights and not pollute but as adults we are more interested in aesthetics and property values.

I live in a single family house and I use a clothesline. I thank the freedoms put down by our fore-fathers that on my 1 acre plot of land, I have the right to hang my laundry. And I am proud of the example I am setting for my children.

Cheryl Drezek
364 Longmeadow Road Orange, CT 06477

Nothing smells sweeter or fresher than laundry dried outside in the sun.....nothing. And to think that so many Americans these days don't know this through no fault of their own, but just changing times, society, economics, convenience, habit and culture. Since global warming and going green (or greener) is up to all of us in so many ways of expression, the return of the clothes line makes more than good sense, aesthetics and economics. There will still be ample demand for automatic washers (and dryers) but we don't have to use our dryers so often. Making our laundry Home spun doesn't necessarily mean spun in the dryer!

I have few neighbors, the closest of whom is my daughter Amy. She is very green and has been drying clothes indoors during the winter, with benefit of her wood stove, and in the sun, year round. By planning carefully, she has reduced her energy (electric) by 50 percent while not compromising the quality of her life, or her 10 year old son. I must say, I could follow her example more closely. She found an old wicker basket at a tag sale too. What a comforting sound that is!

I'll have to google more information about clothes trees etc. .

I would think that neighborhoods and Condominiums could indorse the cause and be proud of it as informed and concerned Americans. If 10 % of us (to begin with) considered air drying our clothes, what savings would that mean in barrels of oil not consumed? You need to incited a email chain letter revolution, called the wave (wave you underwear, and be proud of it!) I know this is sounding silly, but it's time to get real! Hey how about starting a "Young Daughters for Quarters Hanging Out! (laundry)

Richard H. Dyer, Jr. M. D.

Black Rock Farm Black Rock Road Watertown, CT 06795-1417

Dear Legislators:

I am a fortunate woman: I have owned my beloved home in the village of South Meriden for over twenty years. And for all of that twenty, I have had a clean, warm basement where the previous owners had put up clotheslines.

When I first moved into my house in 1989, I saw the clotheslines and snickered. I didn't need those silly throw-backs from my grandmother's era: I had an electric dryer.

Within two years, my life changed drastically. I became disabled, lost my career, husband, and lucrative income. Suddenly those old clotheslines in the basement didn't look so silly to me. I began hanging my laundry on those lines and as a result of the money I saved, have been able to keep my house all these years, despite living only on Social Security.

Now many people are finding themselves in similar financial circumstances, and we all have woken up to what our dependence on oil has and is costing us. We have made a mess of our beautiful planet and we need to try to fix it in every way we can. This includes the use of those silly clotheslines. It includes recycling. It includes using renewable sources to provide our energy requirements for those things where no substitute is yet available. Yes, clotheslines.

My electric dryer was one of the costliest and most unnecessary uses of precious energy resources. It used to be one of the greatest user of electricity in my home. I have found that with the new fabric softeners, I have few wrinkles in my clothes. Those persnickety delicate fabrics that do show a few wrinkles without the use of the dryer either learn to suffice on a few minutes in the dryer to then be set out on my four wooden clothesracks or find themselves being recycled out the door.

Without the use of my precious clotheslines, I might not be in my own home anymore because of the added unnecessary expense of the outdated electric dryer. And the electricity I used for running that old-fashioned appliance would not be freed up for use in cases where no alternative currently exists.

Please ensure that everyone is free to choose to hang their clothes on lines wherever they live so that we may move ahead with the new ways of the future, that of using energy sources judiciously and needfully.

Thank you for hearing me on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary-Ann Ellison
210 Charles Street South Meriden, CT 06451

The right to dry clothes on lines around one's house and on one's own property should be unalienable. In addition, to the freedom issue, which is of utmost importance, is the fact that drying clothes this way saves energy, cutting electricity and/or gas usage. It also saves money and provides freshness to clothes that they would not otherwise have it. It's also closer to nature to our past---going back to our founding fathers and mothers.

Please pass HB5596.

Len Engel, Chair of English
CLA--1, 320
Quinnipiac University
(203) 582-8556

Leonard Engel
29 Douglas Dr. Hamden, CT 06518 (2008)

The Federal Government's Economic Stimulus Legislation includes billions of dollars to promote alternate energy sources, including solar and wind power. Meanwhile, in CT, people are being denied the right to use absolutely free and readily available solar and wind energy to dry their clothes. Isn't it ironic that a state that will readily accept close to \$3 billion in Stimulus Bucks won't allow all of its citizens to save a few bucks by installing a clothesline?

Diane Ethier
19 Cooney Road Pomfret Center, CT 06259

To: The Environmental Committee of the CT State House and Senate
Date: February 27, '08

I wish to speak out in favor of the bill which would allow outdoor drying of clothes by clotheslines or other means in Connecticut and stop towns or cities from barring this pro-environmental practice. Drying clothes by air and sunlight would save energy at a time when there are great concerns about global warming. It would save people money. It would set a good environmental example for children, and people in Washington, DC, in other states and other countries.

As a child on Long Island, I grew up with clotheslines. Our family had several permanently secured, and the laundry always smelled fresh and wonderful. In New Canaan I have heard there is a law against drying clothes in the open air. Not realizing this, for a number of years I have been putting laundry out to dry by draping it over our garden furniture, though now I am nervous I will be caught and fined for doing this, ridiculous as such punishment seems!

Please pass the sensible bill which Martin Mador, a Sierra Club leader, is advocating for. As a Sierra Club member and nature lover, I strongly endorse this sensible, thinking person's proposal! Thank you.

Lucy Lee Grimes Evans
Lee Evans
160 Old Kings Hwy. New Canaan, CT 06840 (2008)

Your support for the Clothesline/Right to Dry Bill would be very much appreciated. Insignificant as it may seem, the passage of this ecologically friendly bill helps to address some of the pressing issues of our time.

In these economical troubling days, air drying clothes could save folks 10 to 15 percent on their electric bills, helps our nation gain energy independence and aids in the reduction global warming emissions.

Louise Fabrykiewicz
281 State St New London, CT 06320-6330

RE: HB5995, Right to Dry

Connecticut has been a leader in climate change law, but we need to have real, effective policy to move forward. This small and simple measure is exactly the type of policy that will help in the best way – in a way that benefits many, many people directly while effecting positive change. It's unconscionable to prevent citizens from saving on their electric bill, saving energy, and reducing air pollution.

And, personally, I want to dry my clothes outside, not only to save energy, but because it makes clothes last longer and they are much fresher!

I strongly urge you to do away with the preposterous and pretentious private and public restrictions on outdoor clotheslines in Connecticut.

Letitia L. Ferguson
542 Mountain Laurel Rd Fairfield, CT 0682

That everyone should have the right to dry their laundry in a manner that does not consume electrical and/or gas energy goes without saying. . . even more so in times when all Americans must learn to cut their consumption of both energy AND dollars. Furthermore, this is just the kind of issue that can demonstrate the kinds of initiatives that exist for conservation. It's smart, it's thrifty, and its patriotic. Those who argue for individual aesthetic sensibilities have yet to learn that conscious sacrifice is the only way in which Americans will be able to head off the catastrophic cultural decline threatening our country today.

Richard S. Field
46 Mountain View Terrace North Haven, CT 06473-4427

I live the Stamford, Connecticut in an old neighborhood with 100 year old houses that are maintained well. When my husband and I moved here in 1996 we found it amusing that our older Italian born neighbors were using clotheslines to dry their clothes. Our house also had a clothesline but we removed it because we had just bought a brand new dryer. As time went on and we became very friendly with these neighbors, I found myself asking if we could borrow their lines to air dry comforters and air out pillows. My family is conscientious about our energy use and one day it occurred to us that at least for the warmer months during the year, we could use a clothesline and dry our clothes outside. This has been our

standing practice for about 5 years and I have no intentions of changing. I have an energy efficient dryer and look forward to not using it all summer long. My family looks forward to "crispy" clothes and although at first you think they might be scratchy, towels dried on the line are my favorite.

I think the use of a clothesline, in addition to bringing back warm memories of my grandmother and her canvas bag of clips in her backyard also is a simple way to cut our energy usage during peak usage times. The sight of these clotheslines should not be seen as a nuisance but as a sign of an environmentally conscientious choice.

Thank you.

Jennifer Freeda
60 Fifth Street Stamford, CT 06905-4703

Dear Members,

My name is Judi Friedman and I am the Chair of PACE (PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY, INC.) For the past thirty years I have been working to advance the cause of solar energy in this state. Over 15,000 people have attended our PACE solar tours. Over and over they experience the power of solar energy...its availability, its low cost, its lack of polluting emissions and its applications in many areas.

One of the best uses of the sun is the drying of clothing...a custom that has been useful for hundreds...probably thousands...of years. Because of our new understanding of global warming and its dangers, this ancient practice has gained new importance as a way to combat the problems of carbon dioxide releases. In fact the prohibition of this practice should not be legal. We are working so hard to solve energy problems that having clotheslines be illegal almost seems quaint and old-fashioned!

Please address this wonderful solution to some of our climate problems by passing HB 5995 and give everyone in Connecticut "the right to dry"!

Green is the new red, white and blue.

Judi Friedman
101 Lawton Rd. Canton, CT 06019

have used a clothes line for over 20 years. I use it from late March (if possible) until early November. My monthly winter electric bill is approximately 60 kw hours higher than during the summer.

Specific data from my electric bill

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
kw/day	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	6

Not all is due to the clothes dryer.

Estimated calculation

I typically run the dryer for 1 - 1 1/2 hours per week during the winter.

15 amps (?? low heat setting ??) x 220 volts x 5 hours / month = 16 kw hrs per month.

At 20 cents / kw hour total charge, this saves me about \$3.20 / month.

Charles Gagliardi
17 Gifford Road West Hartford, CT 06119-2207

Clotheslines? I have four short ones in a garden area near the house.

I rarely use a drier. Using free solar energy saves money and gets me outdoors. . . much better than wasting money in the basement.

In the winter, I sometimes hang my clothes out in sub-freezing temps while I watch the chickadees cavort in the spruce trees.

On those occasions, the clothes might start to freeze before I get them pinned to the clothesline. I wear gloves, so I just keep going and enjoy the fresh air.

Next day, they are all dry—drying directly from ice—and they smell like joyful sunshine when I fold them and put them away in drawers and closets.

I schedule time to do laundry according to the weather report. It's a harmless kind of gambling, and I enjoy the interplay with Mother Nature. Seeing a dusting of snow on pillow cases only means they will smell even better when I do bring them in.

An outdoor spotlight installed on the house enables me to hang out laundry after dark. The stars might be shining. In the summer, I can listen to the crickets. During thunderstorm season, I check the local accuweather map on my computer so I can bring things in before a shower. But if the clothes, bedsheets, etc., do get wet, I just leave everything out there for another day.

Fluffing knitted things, corduroy pants and such for just a couple of minutes in the drier before hanging them outside eliminates "spin wrinkles." I don't use fabric softeners, in deference to neighborhood wells and Long Island Sound, and I've started using Shaklee laundry detergent for its environmental benefits.

Wooden clothespins, wicker clothes baskets and cotton rope make the natural experience even more so.

Patrice Gillespie
258 Silver Spring Road Wilton, CT 06897

Connecticut General Assembly' 'Energy and Technology Committee' 'Feb. 28, 2008' 'Testimony of [Dawna M. Glave] in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry'

I am very fortunate to own my home, but can emphasize with residents in an apartment or condominium complex where there are restrictions on the use of clothesline. I traveled this past summer, stayed in a condominium complex for 5 weeks, where such a restriction was imposed. The only option in said complex was to use an electric dryer.

I think it important that people should be allowed to use clotheslines. It saves energy, it saves money, it reduces fossil fuel use, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it makes for fresher clothes, etc. In addition to the economical and environmental concerns that restricting the use of clothesline would create; there is also a medical component to consider; that of the latex allergic individual.

Latex allergies can range from a cough, to skin dermatitis, to anaphylaxis. Many individuals allergic to latex however, do not understand the magnitude of this condition. A smart lawyer however does. I would urge the State Government to, if nothing else, consider the liability that this decision could present. The cost associated with this one medical event for example to Employers, Insurers, Hospitals, and State and Municipal Government as well as the judicial system could be astronomical.

All dryers sold in the United States are made with latex material. When heated this material becomes more toxic. Direct contact, as simple as touching these latex materials, or contact with contamination to clothing while in, or upon loading, or unloading the dryer could cause reactions ranging from a doctor/emergency room visit, or death.

I am appealing to the legislature to pass this bill. Thank you.

Dawna Glave
137 Duncaster Road Bloomfield, Ct 06002 (2008)

Co-chair Fonfara, Co-Chair Nardello, Committee Members and Diligent Staff, my name is Joel N. Gordes and I am an independent energy consultant with over thirty years in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy security. I am sorry I cannot personally be with you today. This bill may seem like a very small item in the scheme of things and maybe even symbolic but symbols can be powerful as we all know - sometimes they even overwhelm the substance of the issue they represent; but not in this case.

Some of you who know me know that I am a US Air Force combat veteran. Once I delivered F-4 fighter jets to the Shah of Iran's Air Force. That was a poor policy then and it is a poor policy today even as this nation is poised to sell the Saudis precision bombs. In my own case let's just say I have been trying to atone ever since for that indiscretion of my youth. Today I realize that our need and dependence on oil was a driver for these ill-advised actions. It still is.

Banning a clothesline is maybe a very small thing but from my perspective today, it is akin to banning the flying of an American flag which is also an action taken by some gated communities. To me, both in their own way, are symbols of our liberty. Just think about it, this next Independence Day we will be 60% dependent on a lot of places who share none of our democratic values (see below). In a very small way, by banning clotheslines we give despots aid and comfort by doing so

as we will increase our use of their oil by some small degree. Some of that may go for weaponry to be used against our own troops (remember the troops??) And this is a country that has forgotten the meaning of shared sacrifice. Now you have a chance to do One Thing (as the Governor's campaign might say) by voting "yes" on this bill." Please do so.

Joel Gordes
30 Brookmoor Road West Hartford, CT 06107

Sunlight and breezes are FREE and everyone in CT should be able to take advantage of them. This is one of the fastest ways to conserve energy that almost everyone can do immediately, at no cost to towns or the state. I have always hung most of my laundry on the clothesline in good weather, as it is the easiest way to save energy, lower energy costs, and protect our air quality. In addition, laundry dried outside smells wonderful without the use of scented chemical products. It is time to end restrictions on clotheslines. If they seem unsightly to some people, they can easily be screened with fencing or plantings.

Jeanie Graustein
250 Dyer St. New Haven, 06511

My wife and I have stopped using our dryer on all but the coldest days of winter. We consider our waving laundry on the line as our freedom flags..freedom from high utility bills, large utility companies and from contributing to climate change. When I was growing up, my parents built an attractive "drying yard", enclosed with fencing that allowed the wind to waft through and dry the laundry. I think this should be a model for those areas with close quarters.

Evan Griswold
24 Osprey Road Old Lyme, CT

I lived abroad for one year in South Korea, where dryers are uncommon. For that year I line-dried my clothes like everyone else, and ever since I have dried my clothes this way. After getting used to life without them, dryers seemed like a huge waste of energy. Even in a densely-populated country where most people live in high-rise apartments, everyone found space (often on a balcony) to line-dry. And the more densely-populated our planet becomes, the more important it is that we all work towards less energy waste in our daily lives. Permitting clotheslines is a very basic way to encourage a more responsible way of living on the earth. I hope you will support this bill.

Julia Guarneri
113 Canner Street #2 New Haven, CT 06511

I'm writing to tell you that I am very much pro clotheslines. In fact, to be against them sounds so ridiculously absurd, that I'd almost put it in the same category as breast feeding. So many are uncomfortable seeing women breast feed, when feeding your child is something that women have been doing for millions of years. While, I know that it's not exactly the same argument, I think we need to ask ourselves why many have allowed the simple act of drying their garments in the fresh air to become such a "charged" issue. Are we as a people THAT superficial? For me, I won't even "go there" about the lovely memories and the even better smells of air-dried clothes. Instead, it's an issue of simply being shallow. We are a country that needs to save energy, this is one piece of the puzzle. If people actually feel that having their neighbor dry their clothes outside would actually bring down THEIR property values, then it's time that those same people stop worrying about attending the "right" parties, wearing the "right" clothes, driving the "right" cars, having their kids attend the "right" schools, and just get a life. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lori S. Guillard
31 North Road Windham, CT 06280

My grandmother, Mary Hackett, was a somewhat well-known oil painter in Provincetown from the 1930s until her death in 1989. When visiting her aunt, Anna Lusk, in Guilford Connecticut in the 1950s, she set up her easel and did a painting from a small island in a lake (Quonnipaug) in North Guilford looking across a bog at a very, very old house owned by Fred and Dora Hesselink. My grandmother urged me to drop by and see the Hesselinks when I came to Connecticut in 1981 to study law. I finally did visit them around 1985; my (now) wife and I drove up a side lane from the main road and spotted two figures bent over working. They were outdoors, it was autumn, the air was crisp, and they were collecting seeds from flowers for re-sowing in the spring. The house and yard were charming, weather worn and solid. Fred was 90, I believe; Dora younger by 7 or 8 years. I think Fred had been born in that house, around 1896, and Dora had been born nearby, less than a quarter mile away. They recalled my grandmother and her aunt fondly. They thought my grandmother had been a real character and may have said she was the only painter they had known. They were pleased that my grandmother put their house in the painting, but they were still baffled at her including in it their clothesline and the clothes

drying on the line. They had offered to take the clothes off the line to make the painting look better--more natural, I suppose, they felt. They chuckled still, years later, over my grandmother insisting that the clothes, including some underwear, stay on the line and go in the painting. The Hesselinks urged us to leave and return for tea. They wanted to make their house inside tidier. I would never have minded tea in their wonderful old house untidied, but I knew that it mattered to them. Instead we talked happily about Aunt Annie and my grandmother, and forgot about taking tea. The Hesselinks lived the best of lives, really knowing their environs, wildflowers, the soil, the seasons. They used wind to dry clothes. We should all be so wise: clotheslines, closelines, closelines! (And no really good painter is ever going to mind the view when setting up an easel nearby.)

Timothy Hackett Everett
West Hartford, CT

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee Feb. 28, 2008
Testimony of Margaret J. Hall
in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.
Aesthetics vs. the Environment

What's in an image? How much of our adult evaluations of what looks "nice" or what "is too much trouble" is based on childhood remembrances or un-thought-out assumptions? Let me give an example.

I was raised in a small town in a house with a big back yard. Whenever the weather was nice enough – and that includes nice, though freezing, days in the winter – Mom would hang laundry out on the clothesline instead of using the clothes dryer. My image of using clotheslines is of sunny, spring weather and sweet-smelling, crisp sheets.

One of my friends lived in New York City until he was five when his parents decided this was not where they wanted to raise a child. He was brought up to believe that a clothesline is what one uses until one can afford a dryer. His images of using clotheslines are of other people's underwear on display off a tenement balcony.

Is it any wonder that I use a clothesline as often as possible, appreciating its energy-saving value and the luxury of not worrying about catching shirts at the right instant before they wrinkle, while my friend considers a clothesline a bother and something to be hidden? "April Fresh" was once an understandable slogan for a fabric softener, but now they say "Clothesline Fresh" because the other has become too obscure. I still know how to get clothes the real "April fresh".

Besides the huge energy savings of not using a dryer, consider the savings in wear and tear on clothes. After all, the lint in the dryer isn't just dust your clothes picked up, it's little bits of the fabric. We sometimes let our images, our habits, and our worries about what the neighbors might think, get the better of our common sense and basic underlying desire for a clean environment.

When I rented at a condominium, I was forced to take down my laundry from my 2nd floor deck. I moved. We are in an energy crisis. No one should be forced to sacrifice environmental values for someone else's aesthetics. Please support HB 5596.

Peg Hall
(2008)

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee, February 28, 2008
Testimony in Support of HB5596, An Act Concerning The Right To Dry

I believe that the hanging of clothing outdoors to dry should not only be allowed but encouraged.

I hang my clothes on the line six months a year and sometimes indoors on a rack in the basement during colder weather. Hanging clothing out doors allows me to experience a fresh scent that no electric drier can duplicate. To me the sight of sheets and garments and garments snapping briskly in the wind is beautiful, both esthetically and because it represents savings on my electric bill and a healthier earth.

Thank you, Thomas Hanford
Tom Hanford

297 Bartholomew Hill Road, P. O. Box 90, Goshen, CT 06756 (2008)

From childhood I remember the smell of clothes and linens just brought in from the clothesline -- so fresh and wonderful, with none of the nasty smells of fabric softener-chemistry that everyone seems to think necessary these days.

And from years later, I remember living in one of four tiny cottages overlooking the Farmington River. A development of large new houses was built next door, and one of the new owners complained that when he looked out his back window (and to the left and past his fence and several trees), he didn't like having to see our drying clothes once or twice a week. Perhaps he grew up thinking only poor people had to hang out their clothes, that he shouldn't have to be in any way associated with such riff-raff, that successful people like him could use that lovely machine in the laundry room to achieve the same effect. Sort of.

I have no problem with clothes dryers -- I use mine and am glad to have it on damp days or in the cold late night or when I realize I haven't planned well for a trip. But telling residents they can't use a clothesline, for whatever reasons, is ridiculous. It's hard to understand the mindset that approves this kind of regulation, but hopefully that mindset can be changed in the face of environmental and economic concerns.

Susan Forbes Hansen

36 Wiltshire Lane West Hartford, 06117

For more years than I can count, we have been air drying most of our family's laundry. In sunny, warm weather we use a line strung behind our house. In cold or damp weather we use a rack that conveniently just fits into our small furnace room as we have no basement nor attic. In winter when we are home we can speed the process by placing it near the wood stove. It takes a little longer to fill the rack than loading a dryer but then, after the clothes are dry, folding them goes more quickly. Even years ago it made more sense to us to air dry instead of consuming the natural gas our dryer uses.

We do presently have the restriction of the requirement of a fence but fortunately 50 years ago when the architect of our development homes made her plans, she designed a fence to be part of each house. It does not enclose the yard at all but provides enough privacy to shield part of it. As a contribution to reducing global warming, with some flexibility of attitude and a little effort and imagination, air drying laundry can become again an accepted part of our lives.

Wende and Richard Harper

218 Four Brooks Rd Stamford, CT 06903

Hi. My wife and I started air-drying our clothes in the center of Guilford, a half-block from the historic Green, and the only reaction we've had from our neighbors is, "How neat! Why aren't we doing that ourselves?" Of course, we've taken reasonable care to keep our "unmentionables" from becoming an eyesore by hanging our clothesline behind the house, out of sight of the street, and below the level of our privacy fence. But sightliness doesn't seem to be the main issue with any of the people we've discussed it with. Like other energy-saving devices--rooftop solar panels, for example--clotheslines have become widely accepted as emblems of doing our part to preserve the environment. I fully expect they will become less controversial the more commonly they are seen, particularly in suburban areas--rather like mothers breast-feeding in public.

Henry Haskell

15 Union Street Guilford, CT 06437

I support the bill which allows everyone to use clotheslines. It is a good way to save energy, which we need to do, it is good exercise, it gets you outdoors, and can provide a fresh smell which no dryer can duplicate. However, many people might find their clothes pick up dirt and dust from polluted air, and realize just how serious the need is to keep the air we breath clean. That's not all bad either.

Since the amount of outdoor space per person is more limited today than when I was growing up in the middle of the last century, I suspect the number of people who will attempt to dry outdoors is much smaller than it once was, although the cost of energy today is certainly a good motivator. It would be nice if flat roofs on condos and apartments were set up for outdoor drying...

Margaret Holton

9 Alewives Road Norwalk, CT 06850

I am in support of the Clotheslines (Right to Dry) bill.

This bill makes sense in a national and world situation that requires energy conservation. Environmentalists will say that we need elaborate wind farms, solar energy, biomass production and so forth in order to conserve and preserve. These large-scale conservation methods have their place. However, on a grassroots, no cost level, we have the resource of drying

clothes in the outdoors in the bright sun and the breeze. A savings to the pocketbook and the environment all wrapped in one. And who among you doesn't remember your mom out there, sheets flying in the breeze on a sunny day? That's apparently not someone's aesthetic but it's a lot of peoples. Let's not let someone who's idea of what looks good in a community prohibit something that helps our environment, our pocketbooks and our spirits.

Cheap, environmentally safe, and aesthetic. Vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Allen E. Horner
216 Belleview Avenue Southington, CT 06489-3734

I think the aesthetic campaign has gone too far in preventing people from using clotheslines. We need to eliminate the prohibition against clotheslines, so that people are not forced to use dryers, which increase energy consumption unnecessarily.

Thanks!

Vince Hough
237 West Norwalk Rd Norwalk, CT 06850

Please help pass the Clothesline Act. I don't think anyone has the right to take away the right to dry clothes in a natural, energy saving , money saving way--the clothesline.

In these times it is necessary to be FRUGAL and use of NATURAL ENERGY ---especially the clothes line is saving in more ways than one.

Barbara Hudson
5 Ridge Drive Canton, Ct. 06019

I grew up with my mom hanging the laundry out to dry and remember fondly the fragrance of those clothes as she was folding them. I hang laundry to dry at my summer place in Maine. I live in a condo here in CT and would like to be able to air my winter clothes outside before I put them away over the summer. I understand the aesthetic concern but think it would be possible to permit drying racks and/or some such thing. Besides it would encourage us all to use less electricity in drying clothes in a dryer. It would be a great symbolic statement as well.

Linda R. Isham
212 E. Bass Ln Suffield, CT 06078-1956.

To the members of the Energy and Technology Committee,
I would like to urge your support of HB 5596, An Act Concerning the Right to Dry.

Given the prospect of global climate change, we should conserve every watt of electricity that we can, wherever we can, even if that means hanging laundry outside in neighborhoods that have not had laundry lines in the past. The reluctance of some home owner or condominium associations to allow laundry lines should not be a permanent barrier to receiving the many benefits of using this simple strategy to save electricity. Passage of this bill will mean that:

- consumers will save money on their utility bills
- fossil fuel usage will be reduced
- greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced.

Hanging fresh, clean laundry out of doors can help us keep our air clean as well!

Thank you for your consideration and I urge your support of this legislation which will benefit our state in the short and long term.

Alison L. Johnson
108 Camp Street Middletown, CT (2008)

I strongly urge you to pass a Right to Dry bill. The use of solar energy in its most basic form seems to me to be a no-brainer. At a national, state, local community, and a family level, energy use and saving money are top priorities. So how can we allow such a simple way to cut energy and cut costs be against the law? I am now living across the street from where I

grew up with a clothesline. Because of local zoning laws, I am not allowed to have a clothesline in my backyard because it is in a different zone than the houses across the street. As a result, I carry my laundry (well, to be truthful, just my sheets) across the street to my mother's house and dry them on her line. Please, help encourage people to save energy by giving them the right to a clothesline.

Sincerely,

Beth Jones

101 Harrison Ave. New Canaan, CT 06840

My mother lived in her West Hartford condo for over 27 years. In her back yard was the only clothes line for the entire complex. Interestingly, tenants from the other buildings would line-up to use this clothes line. This demonstrated not only a desire, but a demand.

Laurie Julian

Maple Ave. Bloomfield, CT

I 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.

Leslie Kane

154 North Fair Street Guilford, CT 06437 (2008)

Should people be allowed to dry their clothes using clotheslines? On the one hand, energy conservation is a critical national issue for economic, national security, and environmental reasons. On the other hand, some people find clotheslines ugly. Which is more important? The economy, the environment, and national security? Or protecting people from the unpleasantness of seeing wet clothes hanging from a rope? This is not a hard question.

Jack Kaplan

93 North Lake Drive Hamden, CT 06517

The clothesline bill is an important statement of our commitment to stop global warming. The United Nations Climate Change Director commented Thursday that the US needs to show "credible domestic action" in our role of global leadership. All of the panelists spoke of the urgency of acting to prevent further erosion of our planet. This bill is "One small step for humanity" in reducing our pollution contribution. The other side of economic stimulus is to produce small clothes dryers for apartment and house use. This would provide jobs for our people. We have used them for 75 years and have memories of children carefully helping grandparents and parents hang the wash, enjoying the "outdoors" and the beauty of nature around them. The small folding dryers for apartments, the fenced drying areas with clothes lines, the familiar folding carousel have been used for years across our country. The choice should be for each resident and the benefit for all is evident.

Thank you .
Mary Keane
181 Pinewood Trail Trumbull, CT 06611

It is hard to imagine a better way to save energy than to use sunlight and fresh breezes to dry laundry. The restriction of this practice in Connecticut forces people to use non-renewable energy sources to accomplish a ridiculously low-tech goal—evaporating water from clothing. In addition, legal restrictions to air-drying clothes increases our dependence on foreign energy supplies, and prevents household funds from being used for other exigencies. In Connecticut, where energy prices are astoundingly high, this is a situation that should not be allowed to continue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust your vote will support the greening of Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Knisely, MD
220 Everit Street New Haven, CT 06511-1322

Clotheslines are one more piece of the vanishing landscape, along with trees and the icecaps. They have been a part of our heritage, as documented by artists in paintings such as Venetian Clothes Line by Mindy Newman; or closer to home: Clotheslines, 1969 by Bernard Safran; or Grandma's Clothes Line, 2009, by Nita Leger Casey; or Texas on the Line, 2009, by Vernita Bridges Hoyt; or The Clothes Line, by Helen Mary Elizabeth Allingham to name a few that an internet search brought up. They represent the work of daily life.

This is how clothes are dried in Spain, where I lived for some time. A place for clothe lines is planned into the building plan for apartments. It is usually a place between two walls of adjacent apartments that may measure 6' to 8' deep by the width of the stairwell (maybe 12' wide), which is adjacent to it in plan. This space has a central structural support for the clothes lines, allowing it to be used by the two adjacent apartments through window openings. It is usually on the rear of the building and shielded from direct public view by a series of brise-soleils at each floor, creating a

rhythmic architectonic element. This idea could be easily applied to apartment building design. It could also be modified / reinvented to work with residential design. "The level of our success is limited only by our imagination..." Aesop.
Wanda Kopec

52 Sinaway Road Cos Cob, CT 06807-02326

Madam/Sir: I actively support the right of individuals to dry clothes outdoors, using no fossil fuel and saving money. It is a shame to have legislation that forces individuals to waste energy in the form of electric dryers, when those individuals are willing to forgo the use of them. I feel we are at a turning point--to protect the environment perhaps we can withstand a small "visual blot" (clothes on an outdoor line) in order to have cleaner air and water in the long run. Perhaps the "visual blot" will morph into an pleasant symbol, one that represents individuals making a small effort to be less wasteful and more global in their thinking.

Becky Latimer Kreczko
5 Spruce Lane Weatogue, CT 06089

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
Feb. 28, 2008
Testimony of Jane Latus in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

I urge you to support the Act Concerning the Right to Dry. At a time when we should all be doing what we can to reverse global warming, and when energy costs are so high that some people's bills are a severe burden, it is nonsensical to restrict anyone's right to dry clothes on a line merely because someone finds it unattractive. (And, as an aside, to me the sight of laundry swaying in the breeze in the sun is a comforting, pleasant sight.) Clothesline-drying saves energy, reduces pollution and saves money – it seems so obvious that everyone should be allowed to do it, that it's hard to believe I find myself needing to write this letter.

Thank you for guaranteeing that no one be prohibited from this smart option.

Sincerely,

p.s. You may not be aware that line-drying also reduces the need to use bleach, a pollutant. The sun itself whitens laundry.
Jane Latus

8 Uplands Dr. Canton, CT (2008)

We support the so-called "Right to Dry" bill, which would remove a barrier to responsible energy use by disallowing prohibitions on the use of clotheslines by homeowner and condominium associations.

Defenders of such prohibitions will argue that if people freely choose to join such associations and pay for the energy required to run clothes dryers on nice sunny days, it is nobody's business but their own. But this argument overlooks the fact that not all the costs of providing energy are covered by its price. All forms of energy have negative environmental impacts which are not reflected in its price, in part because they are difficult to price.

"Visual pollution" is not the most important of the negative externalities associated with energy. But it is worth mentioning here, since the main rationale for prohibiting clotheslines is that they constitute "visual pollution" of the neighborhood. One might question this: don't clotheslines with brightly-colored laundry add considerably to the charm of Venice and other European cities?

However, the more important point is that people in these associations avoid what they consider "visual pollution" by imposing "visual pollution" on others, since the electricity or natural gas they use to run their clothes dryers comes to them over ugly transmission lines or pipeline rights-of-way. As part of its "Interstate Reliability Solution" CL&P is now proposing to clear more of its existing right-of-way through NE Connecticut for a second set of 345kV lines transporting electricity from Hydro Quebec and other suppliers to consumers in Fairfield County. If the routing is

approved by the Connecticut Siting Council, nobody in NE Connecticut will be compensated for the additional "visual pollution" they must put up with.

Obviously, "right-to-dry" legislation does not address the large problem of how to internalize the negative externalities of energy production and transmission. It merely allows the incentives, moral or financial, that already exist to reduce energy consumption to operate. But surely this is a step in the right direction!

Scott & Rebecca Lehmann

532 Browns Road Storrs, CT 06268-2726

What a great idea! We use clotheslines all the time! Why? Easy: to save money. Unfortunately, they are not useful during winter, but we use them the rest of the time. Our family gets our young children to do much of the work. It's a great way to teach children their responsibility for doing household chores, and that they must pitch in to help. This bill should be a no-brainer. Good luck!

John Levin

249 Chestnut Hill Road Norwalk, CT 06851-1412

Electric clothes dryers account for 6% of residential electricity consumption. And unfortunately, they cannot be made substantially more efficient. A household with Energy Star appliances would use twice as much electricity for clothes drying as for refrigeration. Fortunately, it turns out that clothes dryers are entirely unnecessary. While visiting my Swedish relatives several years, I discovered that very few Swedish households use dryers. Our family has subsequently adopted the non-powered drying habit. We use a line in our sideyard in warm weather; racks and hangars indoors in cold weather.

Our family of six averages \$50 per month for electricity and \$50 per month for gas (we heat our house with wood). An electric clothes dryer costs about 75 cents per load (gas about 50 cents). Since we wash a large load daily, electric clothes drying would add \$20 per month to our electric bill, a 40% increase. This Act will empower citizens to save money (\$240 per year per household); slow down climate change; reduce the amount of nuclear waste generated; reduce the amount of coal soot in New England air; and lead to fresher smelling clothes.

Thank you.

Peter Libre

7 Seaside Place Norwalk, CT 06855

A clothesline is a metaphor for connectivity; it is a practical step we can take to reduce energy use; it is a step we can take to remove our dirty laundry from the air we breathe and replace it with clean laundry. Building a greener planet calls upon each one of us to take small steps that we can integrate into our busy lives. All Americans should be encouraged to diminish their use of unnecessary energy-eating appliances. In this case, we have a happy alternative. Thank you,

Julie Lyonn Lieberman

37 Parmalee Hill Road Newtown, CT 06470-1051

Testimony of Peggy Loeffler in Support of HB 5596--An Act Concerning the Right to Dry'

I live in a rural town in northwestern Connecticut and I have a 'solar clothes dryer', or, in other words, I have a clothesline outside. We have privacy in our backyard, but I enjoy seeing clothes on clotheslines whenever I drive by someone's house that isn't as private as ours. It means that someone took the time to utilize the sun's energy, not 'waste' it.

The sun will disinfect your bedding and clothes, and make them smell like fresh air. My family has stopped complaining about the initial stiffness of the towels before the first use. They have seen me trudge out to the backyard on snowshoes over 3 feet of snow to the clothesline to hang clothes on a sunny March or April day. Why waste the free energy?

Peggy Loeffler
110 Old Colebrook Road Colebrook, CT 06021 (2008)

I support the Clothesline Bill. It may seem insignificant but in the scheme of things it counts toward encouraging people to save energy and money. Not allowing people the right to save energy in small but significant ways is a violation of our freedom and free choice. American corporations and the like should not have power to decide stop any opportunities for individuals to save energy in this critical time in Earth's history. Its time to put esthetics aside and practicality in the place. Clotheslines were a common sight in every backyard, every firescape and rooftop in previous decades. It's okay to go back to that way of life. Condominium and rental complexes can easily find attractive ways to accomodate its owners and renters who choose not to use their dryers. Every session will count. Every freedom must be available to the American people.

Donna Luddie
94 Woodland Road Guilford, CT 06437-1576

I support this bill. Noone should be prevented from air drying their clothes for aesthetic purposes only. In our current economic state and global climate, we should not prevent people from doing their share to practice fiscal responsibility while at the same time reducing their impact on the environment. According to FEMA's 2007 report, (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v7i1.pdf>) Clothes dryer fires account for about 15,600 structure fires, 15 deaths, and 400 injuries annually. The yearly national fire loss for clothes dryer fires in structures is estimated at \$99 million.

According to Dept. of Energy's 2001 report (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/recs2001/enduse2001/enduse2001.html>) A clothes dryer is the top appliance that accounts for the highest energy consumption of electricity at 5.8% for 61 million households.

Christina Lumbreras
117 Bidwell St. Glastonbury, CT 06033

Of course everybody should be able to use clothes-lines if they wish to. This is a free country, and clotheslines have many benefits and do no one any harm.

1. they are environmentally friendly, helping to reduce global warming
2. using a clothesline is cheaper than using a dryer; especially in these trying time, this is an easy way to trim your budget
3. lines are a more effective way of drying sheets and other items that can get wrinkly in the dryer
4. air dried clothes feel and smell fresh and wonderful

I just don't buy the arguments that clotheslines look bad. I grew up in Europe, where they are quite common, even in high end neighborhoods. It's ironic that upper class American tourists travelling to places like Florence, Italy find clotheslines hanging between buildings romantic, they are even depicted in paintings and post cards of the area! But here in the US those same lines are designated as unaesthetic. That makes no sense.

It seems to me that condo associations and other organizations can make reasonable rules to deal with potential safety issues (e.g., prohibiting clotheslines that block building entrances) and aesthetic considerations (e.g., requiring clotheslines to be hung behind the building), while still allowing those of us who want to dry our clothes by line to do so.

Christel Manning
19 Perkins St. New Haven, CT 06513-3210

Clouds Should Be the Only Restriction

The fine art of drying clothes is evident in Venice, Italy. Go there and take a look for yourself. Artist paint pictures of clothes drying on lines, people take photos of them, and you can even buy a post card of a woman hanging out clothes from her window in Venice.

I assume that there is electricity in Venice, and that there are clothes dryers too. However, I can't imagine going to Venice and not seeing clothes hanging outside! In my opinion, its part of what makes Venice unique!

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB5995, An Act Concerning the Right to Dry. I am doing this because I know, as everyone else does, that drying clothes outside is better for the environment and it saves money. In my opinion, hanging clothes out to dry is a fine art because it is part of supporting human life too.

I love hanging out clothes just the way my Mother taught me to do it over 50 years ago. We were a family with six kids, and even if the weather was almost freezing outside, we'd hang out clothes. We didn't have a clothes dryer in those days, but even if we did, we loved the smell of clothes that were hung outside to dry. Everyone does!

Sometimes with our fast paced life, we miss the art of living. And, I think the only thing that should restrict the right to dry clothes outside is the clouds up above.

Thank you.

Lindsay Methews
256 Shore Drive Branford, CT 06405

In October 1994 we bought a new house on a cul-de-sac in northern Hamden. The builder was attempting to put in a 9 house development. He actually built five (5) of the houses (including his own and his brother's), sold three (3) of the lots to individuals who had other builders, and was partially involved in the 9th lot which was sold to his uncle. By zoning regulations, each lot was at least 1 acre and most lots were larger because they included portions of unbuildable wetlands. The view from the back of each lot is of dense woods rather than another backyard, as there are no parallel streets. When we studied the contract, we were somewhat surprised by a boilerplate covenant which placed a number of restrictions on the properties, the most ridiculous of which was the prohibition of clotheslines. Both of us grew up with clotheslines and quite frankly, frozen, scratchy towels are not my thing, so we signed and attributed the covenant to a rather pompous and misguided attempt to make sure the neighborhood "looked correct". Over the years I have dried lots of heavy, bulky things on my back deck and used my dryer only briefly take out the stiffness. To my knowledge, no one has put up a clothes line, but even if they did we couldn't see it and wouldn't mind. As a matter of fact, the builder's elderly Italian mother, whose house is at the head of the cul-de-sac but facing the through road, has a prominent clothes line in her back yard which is totally visible as soon as one turns down the block. To think that her flapping clothes on wash day lower our property's value is a sad commentary on what we, as a society, have come to value. Let there be choice and let us all do what we can to conserve!

Moira McCloskey
29 Douglas Drive Hamden, CT 06518 (2008)

The restrictions on clotheslines--- which would save energy and add purifying sunlight to both lives and apparel---is, in a word, asinine: utterly stupid, foolishly stubborn, like an ass.

This braying resistance is centered on the issue of aesthetics. To the eyes of the co-operative boards, condo associations, and their petty bureaucratic ilk, the gentle dancing of uninhabited clothing is, somehow, not pretty enough to be part of the neighborhood vista.

But consider a more enlightened viewpoint:

Wash

By John Updike

For seven days it rained that June;
A storm half out to sea kept turning around like a dog
trying to settle himself on a rug.

On the eighth day, before I had risen,
My neighbors' clothes had rushed into all the back yards
And lifted up their arms in praise.

From an upstairs window it seemed prehistorical:
Through the sheds and fences and vegetable gardens,

Workshirts and nightgowns, long-soaked in the cellar,

Underpants, striped towels, diapers, child's overalls,

Bibs and black bras thronging in the sunshine
With hosannas of cotton and halleluiahs of wool.

It is time for the legislature to put the greater good to be gained by the savings in energy and preservation of the environment above silly quibbles about sightliness of benignly flapping fabric.

As a kid, I delighted in helping my mom hang out the wash, promoting the "hosannas of cotton and the halleluiahs of wool" in our holy, happy back yard. Let our legislators see with the eyes of a child.

Yours, sincerely,

Patrick McCord

35 Rayfield Rd Westport, CT 06880-4526

I urge all legislators to support this bill which will remove restrictions that prohibit hanging clothes outside to dry. The first time I heard that in some subdivisions and condo developments, this practice was against the rules, I thought to myself "I'll never live in a place like that."

We should all have the right to take measures to reduce energy use, both to save money and reduce pollution.

Hanging clothes out in the sun is actually quite pleasant. In the winter, I usually hang laundry on racks in front of our gas log. It dries very fast and I can whisk away the racks quickly if visitors arrive! I enjoy the silence, too.

Please vote for this bill. It's one more step in the direction of living a more "green" lifestyle in our society.

Molly McKay

8 Riverbend Drive Mystic, CT 06355

The importance of allowing people to dry their clothes using the natural power of the sun is fourfold:

1) economic - in these hard times, forcing people to pay for electricity or gas to dry their clothes is effectively a tax, pulling money that they could use to purchase goods and services to stimulate the economy.

2) environmental - we all know how important it is to reduce our carbon footprint on the planet - forcing people to emit carbon for no good reason is the height of irresponsibility.

3) sanitary - it is said that sunlight is the best disinfectant - we should be free to take advantage of the ultraviolet spectrum that kills microbes and which is not available from a dryer.

4) quality of life - anyone who has smelled clothes off a line will tell you they smell far superior to any out of a dryer - there is no good reason to deny people this pleasure in light of all the other benefits to solar clothes drying.

The covenants and such which prohibit the use of clotheslines were originally written at a time when there was a misguided notion about the aesthetics of clothes drying, and were in some cases promoted by the electric power industry which wished to promote consumption. Some old habits die hard - the legislature should jump-start the process of getting rid of these counterproductive policies which hurt us at so many levels.

Peter McKnight

59 Robin Lane Fairfield, CT 06824-3939

Seven months of the year, here in Connecticut, I am able to use my clothesline to dry sheets, towels, t-shirts and all my cotton clothing. The fresh smell is wonderful, my dryer is only used four or five months a year - and has lasted 30 years, probably partly as a result of its reduced use. My sheets and towels last longer, and I enjoy the use of solar power to do at least one of my weekly chores. I was sad to hear that nearly one in six Americans is banned from using them, and think that a bill to encourage this old/new approach to drying is long overdue - thanks for introducing this legislation.

Esther Mechler

106 Booth Hill Road Trumbull, CT 06611

Testimony of Ken Merrifield in support of HB 5596, An Act Concerning The Right To Dry.
Committee:

I live in a subdivision that has a deed restriction against clotheslines. These restrictions are not appropriate for the world as it is today. This state, and indeed the world, is rapidly approaching a time when the accumulation of greenhouse gases will permanently alter our planet and its climate. Using a clothesline instead of a mechanical dryer will make a small but positive contribution toward reducing greenhouse gases. An arbitrary deed restriction should not prevent me from doing everything I can to save the planet. This issue has come before our town council on a number of occasions and always with the same result, the town has no authority to refute deed restrictions. Passing this bill will ensure that residents of Connecticut can do their part to save the planet.

Ken Merrifield
4 Autumn Circle Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (2008)

Clothesline drying is realistic, practical, inexpensive and should be available to everyone regardless of their address.

Priscilla Miller
14 River Rd West Cornwall, CT 06796-0295

In response to your request, I would like to say that "Condo" associations, etc. are being excessively petty when they establish rules and regulations prohibiting the use of clotheslines to their tenants.

I am in complete agreement with the concept of energy conservation and returning to a simpler way of life before clothes dryers. Individuals should be free to dry their clothes in the least expensive way possible without fear of being taken to court to defend that right against a "Condo" association, etc.

I'm sure that what I have to say on this matter is in line with the many other responses that you will receive.

Sincerely,
Doug Miller
143 Holabird Ave. Winsted, CT 06098

When a washer and dryer were installed in my converted church in Dec 2007, I delightedly set about doing laundry at home after 30+ years of schlepping to laundromats. Then the electric bill arrived with a 30% increase over the previous month. I now use racks indoors and look forward to sunny days when I can hang clothes outside on the line that used to be a dog run. The best part is bringing the fresh-smelling laundry back in. It's more work but definitely worth it.

Everyone deserves the right to save money and energy with clotheslines. It no longer makes sense for an association to ban them for reasons of appearance. It's time to re-order our priorities in matters of climate change, energy independence, and economics.

Thanks for asking!

Breezily,
Paula Moriarty
18 N Moodus Rd/ Box 433 Moodus, CT 06469-0433

February 26, 2008
Re: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO DRY
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/TOB/H/2008HB-05596-R00-HB.htm>

To Whom It May Concern:

As a homeowner in the state I feel compelled to write a letter in defense of my right to have a clothesline outdoors. I realize that I do not live in an area that restricts this (gated community comes to mind), but I would never want to see my right to have a clothesline in any way infringed upon, nor do I feel it is fair for communities to keep others from hanging a clothes line on their own property (who is paying the taxes the community or property owner?). Clothesline drying is, after all, the most efficient way to dry clothes, not to mention it can extend the life of a garment vs. using a clothes dryer.

Of the many household appliances we own, it is my understanding that the clothes dryer is a heavy user of electricity or gas. I choose to line dry primarily because I like the fresh air smell things off of the line have as well as the huge savings

to my electric bill.

I have line dried clothes for well over 10 years of home ownership and urge you to support this act not only to protect peoples right to have a clothesline but to promote clotheslines as much as possible to help reduce the use of energy, and reduce the fossil fuel emissions into the air.

Trust me when I say I have a feeling of a deep connection with the past when people not only line dried their clothes but did the heavy work of hand washing all their garments. Every time I hang a piece of laundry on my clothesline I feel connected with an ancestry of people who have done the same act for generations before me. It is a very cathartic experience.

Very truly yours,
Kathleen Morosky

Kathleen Morosky
43 Walnut Drive Uncasville, CT 06382 (2008)

My Dad has family in Australia and we went to visit them over winter break. My Aunt and Uncle's house used a clothes line to dry their clothes and used only fans and open windows to keep their house cool. Additionally they washed many of their dishes in the sink, only using the dishwasher on rare occasions. They did all these energy saving things and it didn't make their life style anymore difficult, in fact it gave their house a quiet, old fashion and relax atmosphere which I loved. Clothes lines are a really easy way to save energy and money, everyone should have a right to use them. Seeing clothes hanging outside gives a beautiful old fashion appeal that fits right in with our colonial style houses and American patriotism. To me clothes lines represent the beauty of yesterday and are not something that should be forbidden. In my opinion voting for clothes line is a step in the right direction for a greener tomorrow and is a step that makes sense!

Theresa C. Murphy
59 crocus lane Trumbull, CT 06611-1234

I am a homeowner in West Hartford, CT, and have had a clothesline for the previous 5 years. Unbeknownst to me, I was told that W. Hartford has a no clothesline law, therefore if true, I am in violation of the law by trying to save energy! In the spring, summer, and fall I dry approximately 8-10 loads of laundry on my clothesline. That is approximately 320-400 loads of laundry that is dried naturally. I have seen a considerable drop in my gas bill, and it is my contribution to helping the environment. Imagine what it would be like if we had everyone on my block do this? What a novel idea that something simple as this would help folks to conserve energy, and lower their bills. Perhaps our ancestors were smarter than we think!

Nancy Nahmias
44 sequin rd West Hartford, CT

Clotheslines save money and energy. Those should be powerful enough reasons to pass the Right to Dry Bill. Nevermind that the United States has a bad enough reputation abroad without adding the ridiculous prohibition of clotheslines to the long list of transgressions against the welfare of the planet earth that the U.S. has already committed.

PLEASE vote in favor of the bill.

Karen Nangle
120 High St. New Haven, CT

I believe we have to address our energy issues on many fronts, which includes expanding the rights for clotheslines to be used in American cities and towns. Everyone wants to save money on their energy bills, and as the Spring approaches, people need the opportunity to harness the free, fragrant-free, natural dryer that is the sun. I represent the part of the population that appreciates folding my dry clothes after taking them down from the clothesline much more than taking them out of the heat-producing, fossil-fuel burning inside dryer. The dryer slowly deteriorates my clothes and if they come out not quite done, I have to put them back and fire it up again when I can just as easily leave them out on the line a little while longer without having any impact on the environment.

I also have an interesting experience to draw on while overseas. I lived in Italy for approximately a year recently, and many of the apartments in and around the major cities that I lived in and visited did not even have dryers in their homes. They think of the experience of sending out and taking in their clothes off the line as a status symbol in a way, and many times it's a way to speak with neighbors in the close-knit neighborhoods with tightly placed buildings. The rows of clothes are often put just outside their porches as well to provide shade for them when they enjoy their

lunch in the summer sun while they enjoy a nice glass of pinot grigio. I spent a lot of time in Cinque Terre which is near Genoa on the Italian Riviera. Thousands upon thousands of American tourists pour out of their Titanic-sized cruise ships

every summer and descend upon these otherwise picturesque and lazy fishing towns like a herd of cattle with their golf visors, travel guides and fanny packs. They pour into the tiny restaurants demanding to use bathrooms and they get annoyed very quickly when the first person they speak with doesn't speak perfect English. I got caught in one of these floodings while heading to the local Gelateria to grab a quick espresso when I overheard a couple of loud, middle-aged Kansas-born women who were looking up at the clotheslines streaming overhead between the buildings and then they looked at each other while laughing and said, "Now, why don't they just get a dy'er?!"

Hearing this, I just thought to myself, "Why don't Americans stop and try to understand that there is an aesthetic appeal to people that are creative and practical when they use free energy and resources without always relying strictly on a culture of convenience." Even if I had said something to these women, I somehow don't think they would have had time to contemplate this because they were just about to turn around and head back to the cruise ship because it was no doubt about to pick them back up and race them to their next destination because they had already had enough time to snap their pictures, empty their trash and take away their new refrigerator magnets and calendars.

We should make a better effort to become a culture that embraces creative ways to save energy much like many cultures around the world, and I believe that a great place to start would be to recommend that we expand the rights for Americans to use clotheslines to dry their clothes. Thank you for time in reading my thoughts.

Jason M. Natelle
390 Park Road West Hartford, CT 06119

Having grown up in the UK and then New Zealand, clothesline drying is second nature. It is certainly more time consuming than throwing things in the dryer at any time of the day or night regardless of the weather outside, but strangely enough it is very satisfying. I used to love going out with my mother and helping pin things up and then put the sweet smelling articles back in the basket when they were dry. I can't imagine anyone being banned from doing this! In this time of energy conservation what a simple way of cutting back on electricity. I'm sure there is a compromise out there somewhere so that those that choose to line dry can do so without without visually distressing their neighbors.

Sian Nimkoff
50 Fern Valley Road Weston, CT 06883

I use a clothesline and have for all of my married life (36 years!!!). To me, there isn't anything more refreshing than climbing into my bed at night after washing and drying my sheets and pillow cases on the clothesline!!!! My bed is my sanctuary after a long day of work and stress – I have a feather bed on my mattress that I also air out every 3-4 days (which is how often I change my linens because of the pleasure I get when climbing into bed)!!!

Frequently, people I encounter will comment about the perfume I wear, when in fact, it is only that my clothes were hung outside to dry versus any perfume.

And I use the clothesline even in Winter – because it faces the East and gives me an opportunity to dry clothes with the sun rise.

I never really think about it from the perspective of green or energy savings – I do it because I believe that the clothes come out nicer, smell better and last longer than using the dryer. However, no matter the time of year, I do use the dryer for towels – they never seem to be softer when line dried....and softer can be more absorbent!!!!

Good Luck!!!!

Hang in There (excuse the pun)!!!!

Sharon M. Ober
78 Weingart Road Harwinton, CT 06791-1211

Please support the Clotheslines (Right to Dry) bill. Hanging laundry out to dry not only saves energy by cutting the use of dryers, it is also just plain common sense for certain garments, rugs, and other articles that cannot go in the dryer. And it is a cost saving for families who lack laundry facilities in their own homes. There are also times when garments, blankets, beach towels, etc. merely need airing, not machine washing and drying.

Further, research has shown that the physical activity of hanging laundry on a clothesline is beneficial for the human body (see research by Joan Vernikos, Ph.D., former Director of Life Sciences for NASA -- I am cc:ing Dr. Vernikos on this message).

For all of these reasons I urge you to support the Clotheslines (Right to Dry) bill.

Best regards,

Elsa Peterson Obuchowski
41 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851-3919

I am writing you today to urge you to support the Clothesline Bill up for public hearing on Tuesday, February 17th. To continue to prohibit the use of clotheslines to air dry our clothing is nothing short of ludicrous in light of today's economic and climate crisis. Air drying saves both money and emissions. To ban the use of clotheslines because they may appear "unsightly" is an aesthetic entitlement we can no longer afford. The time is right to start looking at the bigger picture and changing the way we live. Every little thing we can do as citizens to think green and lessen our impact on this precious and imperiled planet counts, and I for one wish to begin right here at home. I wish to be afforded the same opportunity to hang my clothes out in the crisp clean air just as my mother and grandmother did. It made sense then and it makes even more sense now.

Please do the right thing and support this bill.

Thank you,
Carole Osborn
26 Coppermine Road Oxford, CT 0678-1734

I have been an outdoor laundry dryer for years. This is not only because of my commitment to the environment, but also my commitment to saving my own money and resources. I remember when growing up in the 1970s (not that long ago, really) that it was quite normal to see laundry drying in people's yards and on decks or porches. I spent the last five years living in the Netherlands; in that culture it was a point of pride to save money and resources whenever possible. To imagine that a right as fundamental as choosing to dry one's clothes outdoors could be dictated by government seems quite ludicrous in comparison. I ask that you help the residents of Connecticut understand that drying clothes outside is not an aesthetic 'problem', but instead a visible symbol of an intelligent, wise, and resourceful society.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katharine Owens
44 Gabb Road Bloomfield, CT 06002

I use my back yard clothes line most of the year. Last year I started mid March and stopped mid November. My electric power usage drop one to two KWH per day each month. A few times you have to wait a day for it to be clear with no rain. I have not had any problem with this system. I look at this as solar heating with no fossil fuel needed to dry. People should have the right to use this solar power. I believe that clothes lines could be use in most cases without having a visual problem. The use of clothes lines should be looked at as a good thing like saving tin fold during World War II. Please consider passing the clothes line bill.

C. Thomas Paul
813 Summer Hill Road Madison, CT 06443

Last summer, we, the residents of Connecticut were challenged to reduce our electricity consumption by up to 20%. My family decided to accept the challenge, and we made two major changes. One of the changes was to hang our laundry outside instead of using the clothes dryer. What should have been an easy change was actually extremely inconvenient because our condo association, The Crossings, has a regulation against putting up clothes lines. So we made do with unstable clothes racks that blew over in a strong wind and spread our clothes over our garden instead.

My family actually reduced our electricity consumption by over 30%, but that was in spite of the discouragement of our condo association. We all know that money is tight these days for people of all income levels, and I feel strongly that housing associations should not have the ability to prevent people from saving money through the convenience of hanging laundry outside on clothes lines. Yes, we were able to find a way around the regulations, but how many people didn't even try because they weren't willing to accept the hassle?

In addition to the cost saving that my family achieved, we were also extremely proud to be reducing our emission of the greenhouse gases that are leading to global warming. The global warming problem is going to be solved by each citizen making an individual contribution to the answer, and being able to hang clothes outside is an easy method if we are able to put up a clothes line. We are also proud that saving a third of our usual electricity meant that a little less pollution from coal fired power plants reached the atmosphere, that there was a little more electricity to go around Connecticut on hot days, and that we contributed to a little bit less reliance on foreign oil with the cost and political instability that goes along with that source of energy.

No housing association should be able to prevent citizens from having the convenience of hanging laundry outside on clothes lines, especially when it has such significant economic, environmental, and political impacts.

We're going to be house hunting this spring. Neighborhoods where we see clothes lines will be very appealing.

Laura Pence
66 Jeffrey Lane Newington, CT 06111

Clothes Lines - Aahhh Clothes Lines! Fresh, natural, beautiful billowing laundry, tickles the senses at the thought of it.

Nothing replaces the effects of laundry dried on a clothesline - period!

I lost mine once to a windstorm and until I was able to put it back in place, I draped my laundry over bushes and hung it from branches. My neighbor took photo's of my yard cause he loved the idea of it.

PLEASE, ban the banning of such an environmental gift!

Katherine A Peterson
33 Orchard St. Terryville, CT 06786

I am writing to urge you to support the Clothesline Right to Dry bill. Although I do have a dryer in my home I rarely use it. I prefer to line dry our clothes, year round. Not only does this save money on utility bills, it saves energy, reduces my carbon footprint and my clothes have a fresh true out-of-doors smell, not some chemically produced smell to mimic nature. Growing up in Connecticut I remember my mother always line-dried our clothes outside and I cannot imagine being told I am not allowed to, or worse be fined for choosing to take steps to help reduce or dependency on fossil fuels. It is absurd to create a law to prohibit the citizens of Connecticut the right to dry their clothes on a clothesline. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Piastuch Temmen
Huntingtown Road Newtown, CT 06470

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5995, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TO DRY*. *At this time of increasing air pollution in Connecticut, the concern that our energy use is a major contributor to global warming, and the economic hard times that Connecticut residents face, it is preposterous that any entity is able to prevent residents from using solar energy, which is both free and environmentally responsible, to dry their clothes. In Middletown, we get abundant sunshine almost every week of the year, my family has not used an electric dryer in about 10 years. 12 months a year we are able to dry our clothes outside, on our clothesline.*

Covenants in at least two very large residential areas, Wesleyan Hills and Old Farms, prohibit the use of clotheslines most of the year. The very large condominium associations in Middletown likely have similar restrictions against using solar power to dry. This leads to unnecessary pollution of our environment. Outdoor clotheslines do more than provide a free and clean way to dry clothes, they promote health and community. As people step outside to hang laundry, they wave to neighbors. As the clothes sway in the breeze, they add color and humanity to residential neighborhoods that are becoming increasingly devoid of people outside. Please convey to our legislature the importance of supporting this act.

Thank you,

Joyce Powzyk
476 Country Club Road Middletown, CT 06457

I love hanging my laundry. It's not only that it helps the earth (being that my dryer sucks more electricity than any other appliance in my house than the oven): It saves me money, it gets me outside for fresh air when I'm too busy doing chores to relax outdoors, and it has a rhythm that is almost meditative. I remember to do laundry at night (when energy is not in demand), so I can hang it out early. I move down the line, clipping, pinning. I can see the linens and clothes flapping in the breeze -- it's a beautiful thing to see my clean laundry drying itself, dancing in the wind. I come out to check what's dry. I move down the line, unclipping, unpinning, folding. It smells wonderful. And I know I've worked WITH the earth, in its groove, to take care of a task without leaving a footprint.

How can anyone want to take away such an elemental experience?

Stacey Prince
5 Little Lane Westport, CT 06860

There's something beautiful about seeing clean laundry waving in the breeze with sun shining on it. All's right with the world when the wet clothes are hanging out to dry. I have raised my children to adulthood and hardly ever have resorted to using a clothes drier. Every morning, weather permitting, before leaving for work I hang out my daily load. Taking in the fresh morning air, listening to the birds, seeing what little plants are coming up and generally taking in the morningness, outside alone for a few quiet minutes, is a lovely way to start the day. Coming home, the process is repeated. Removing each piece, folding it quickly into the basket and feeling the warmth from the sun in the fibers, grounds me.

When I drive by houses where laundry is on the line, I know it is a well-run home where simple domestic tasks are taking place routinely - a symbol of consistency.

An American now, I grew up in Britain where hanging washing is a way of life. Drying racks for inside on bad-weather days and lines outside for good weather are a fixture of the landscape. Neighbors actually talk to each other over the garden fence and get to know one another in the spirit of neighborliness while hanging or removing the clothes. It is a calming activity for the spirit as well as a clean, gentle activity for the earth with NO NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES!

Cynthia Rabinowitz
PO Box 365 Bethlehem, CT 06751

I have supported the "Right to Dry" bill since I heard about it last year. As a mother of two young children, I was chagrined at our rapidly increasing electrical use. (We have charted our use over the years.) To lower the kilowatt hours we use per day, we had already installed Energy Star appliances and energy efficient bulbs where practical. However, we saw a much larger reduction in our energy use when we began drying clothes on a clothesline. As a matter of fact, I have been so impressed with the results that I am now loathe to run the dryer unless absolutely necessary and have found that the sun and wind of Connecticut is more than enough to dry most clothes most of the way, even in the coldest winter weather. Our electric bills have shown a dramatic change as a result. Thus, I have encouraged our friends and family to consider line-drying where possible and would like to think that every Connecticut resident would have the right/opportunity to do the same.

Zoe Cummings Resch
109 Hemlock Rd New Haven, CT 06515

My lease, at my apartment, forbids drying clothes in the sun. I find this ridiculous. This doesn't stop me from drying my clothes inside on a clothes rack though and that does work well.

Sincerely,
Anton Rick-Ossen
24 Girard Avenue Apartment 207 Hartford, CT 06105 (2008)

Coming from a west-side apartment in New York, I was not personally familiar with clothes lines until I married a Connecticut Yankee. She had me put into the ground a sleeve for a clothes pole, which was up and used about once a week. Soon I enjoyed the smell of outdoor dried clothes, all year long except when the sleeve was buried in snow or ice. We of course then saved on electricity, did not exhaust lint and heat into the outdoors, and though at the time we were not as aware of it as now, did our little bit to keep America and the world green. Provisions to protect people from unsightly flappings under their noses may be acceptable, but to arbitrarily prohibit clothes lines to me is ridiculous.

Edwin Rosenberg
24 Silcam Drive Danbury, CT 06811-3915

I vote yes for the use of "clothesline". This act will save energy, eliminates dryer sheets that are NOT biodegradable causing landfill problems.

Jaelyn Rothenberg
178 Park Street Stratford, ct 06612

The clothes line bill is long overdue- and people need to be reminded that the clothes dryer is one of the biggest consumers of electricity of any of their appliances, and one that can normally be replaced by a little planning with the use of an inexpensive clothes line and the sun.

When growing up, our family of 11 used clothes lines exclusively, and it is time that we all went back to that type of

frugality for the sake of the planet. We had the same "aesthetic" concerns back then that opponents express now, and good old common sense ensured that we had no problems with the neighbors (who also hung laundry to dry)- i.e., you hung laundry in the back yard, you avoided hanging on Sundays/ when neighbors were having backyard get-togethers, you didn't leave laundry out over night, or for days in a row, etc. Now-a-days, it makes no sense for the state to condone restrictions placed on energy saving suggestions.

Best Regards,

Tim Ryan
530 Church Hill Rd Trumbull, CT 06611

Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
Feb. 28, 2008
Testimony of Nina Sakun
in Support of HB 5596 An Act Concerning the Right to Dry

I have been drying my clothes outside (weather permitting) ever since I bought my house in 1992. I lived in apartments until then and being able to dry clothes outside was one of the big pluses for me when i was able to live in my own house.

I loved doing this for all the reasons that others talk about: I love saving money for myself and I love saving resources, fossil fuel and unnecessary pollution for our beautiful and stressed planet.

In addition, since I have asthma I felt I was getting clothes that had been aired out, i.e. had fewer detergent chemicals left in them.

For all these reasons I think drying clothes outside should be encouraged rather than prohibited by law or regulation. In my case although I felt I was doing the right and "virtuous" thing on all levels I still always felt a vague discomfort about possibly being perceived as "polluting" the neighborhood aesthetically speaking.

I am glad this issue is being publicly discussed and voted on in the legislature. Maybe I can now think of myself as having been in the drying avant garde.

Nina Sakun
946 West Blvd Hartford, Ct. (2008)

We strongly support the bill which would allow households to dry clothing on an outdoor clothesline. We personally have dried most of our clothing on lines for many years, with no problem or complaints from neighbors. There are also many methods of hanging clothing outside, including pulleys which can be pulled back once the clothes are dried (my mother-in-law did that), fixed lines, or circular poles which can be left in or removed at times.

Drying clothing in a dryer takes much energy, which contributes to more air pollution, more cost, and more unnecessary waste. Also, clothing hung outside benefits by the sun's bleaching and cleansing effects. This very traditional method of laundering should not be prohibited. The cumulative effect of less use of dryers would be to save much energy, making it easier to reduce dependence on foreign oil, also, and would result in healthier children due to cleaner air and less asthma. We urge you to pass this bill.

Virginia and David Schneider
25 Cassway Road Woodbridge, CT 06525

Please pass the Clothesline Bill.

For the last 2 years I have regularly dried my laundry outside on a line when the weather permits and I have been able to save 10% of my summer electric bill (and qualified for a further reduction in my electric bill as a result last summer). It is an out of date idea to equate clotheslines with poverty. They are now associated with environmental responsibility and awareness and social responsibility. Mine has been much admired and envied by those who cannot use them. Everyone should have the right and ability to dry their clothes naturally if they so choose. We should be encouraging this behavior, not discouraging it.

Thank you,
Georgina Scholl
60 Cross Highway Redding, CT 06896

Once people start doing it, they love hanging clothes outside. It saves a lot of energy by reducing household use of energy-hogging dryers and it also leaves clothes smelling fresh and clean. I am especially fond of air-dried sheets on the bed! The activity of hanging clothes out to dry also reconnects us humans with the natural world, creating a few minutes to direct appreciate the sun, which is in fact the source of ALL our power, a thought well worth holding for a few minutes every so often. The few moments of stretching and bending during the hanging out and taking down of laundry also helps to offset some of the 21st Century sedentary and electronic lifestyle habits. I hang some laundry in all seasons, even in winter when a sunny, breezy day will get sheets, towels and jeans mostly dry requiring only a 3-5 minute 'finish' in the clothes dryer. Contemporary life can be both simple and sophisticated!

Clothes drying in the sunlight and breeze also capture great memories of mother and grandmothers doing the same during my childhood. I hung laundry with my own child in the 1980's so I could pass along this inter-generational pleasure. It was a great mother-child activity with my young 'un handing me pieces of laundry and clothespins while I reached up to the line; occasionally I would hold her up so she could do the pinning herself for a "big girl" moment. While I used standing poles and clotheslines in the 1980's, I now use a retractable clothesline in my smaller yard closer to the city.

The options in clotheslines now available allow for a variety of local standards applicable to condominium complexes and suburban housing developments. Local policies can constrain the style of clothesline while still allowing the use of some form of this great technology. I can appreciate that there are aesthetic considerations involved; perhaps some localities would want to prohibit hanging laundry overnight. Still people in all types of housing complexes should have the opportunity to participate in this simple and energy efficient human delight. I strongly support the right to use clotheslines in Connecticut--and I encourage all CT folks to undertake this practice!

Kathleen Schomaker
22 Lilac Ave Hamden, CT 06517

I do feel that anyone who wishes to use a clothesline to dry clothes should be allowed to do so. I'm sure the amount of energy used every day to power dryers is phenomenal and, as you say, it makes us look silly to prohibit it. As for my own memories, the strongest one is many years of taking off the clothesline the frozen solid diapers of my several younger siblings. I'm sure my mother would have killed for a dryer! .

Jane Servadio
158 Cedarhurst Lane Milford, CT 06461 - 2722

Connecticut Residents should be able to put up clotheslines in their yards. This is beneficial to both the user and the environment. Each person should be able to make this decision for themselves. This is not an issue that needs to be regulated by the government. Each person should have the freedom to put up a clothesline on their own property if they want to.

sorry i think this is absolutely ridiculous. when does this stop- the needs of the many being dictated by the needs of the few. people should be able to do what they want on their own property, within reason, as long as they do not cause harm to anyone or break any real laws.

thank you.
Patricia Shaskin
590 Oak Street East Hartford, CT 06118

We are writing in support of laws enabling owners of houses or condos to use clotheslines to dry their clothes, with reasonable attention to aesthetic issues such as location (such as in yards located on the side of the unit away from streets). This is an obvious opportunity for owners to save energy by literally using direct solar and wind power in lieu of electricity.

Sincerely,
Scott and Monica Shuler
21 Ashton Circle Simsbury, CT 06070-3183

There is nothing in the world like the smell of line dried sheets and if this bill passes many can have the smell and save energy as a bonus. Many condos and associations go too far in their efforts to control what owners can and cannot do.

Barbara Smyth
19 Homestead Ave. New Britain, CT 06053-3907

For most of my 66 years my family and I have hung our clothes outdoors. Most of the time we didn't own - and

couldn't afford - a dryer, and even the cost of, and access to, laundermats, have been a challenge. Even when I lived in Hartford city apartments, we clotheslines off the second floor, or an umbrella type on ground level. One condo didn't allow a clothesline. That coincided with a time when I didn't have a car and had to walk a long way with the family laundry in a shopping cart. Sometimes I pulled it while I rode a bike. Now I have an umbrella clothes line which I love. I hang clothes out year round - and that's a lot of laundry because I use sheets & pillowcases for my business. My massage clients love the fresh smell & say it helps them relax. I also hang out my bedding and am told it helps reduce dust mites and allergies. When clothes don't dry completely outdoors, I use an indoor rack and their drying process adds humidity to the dry heated air and doubles the energy efficiency of the wood stove.

Carol Springer

PO Box 43 91 Luchon Rd Willington, CT 06279

I urge you to support and pass the "Clothesline " Bill, No. 5995, which would prohibit governing bodies at any residential setting from restricting the drying of clothes outside using clotheslines and similar apparatus. Energy conservation at every level should now be a priority, and each of us has some obligation to that end. It is absurd that some of our citizens are denied the right to use the sun (free) to dry their items outside on clotheslines. I use a clothesline for larger items regularly and cannot imagine not having access to one.

In addition to saving a substantial amount of energy, outdoor drying saves people money (as much as \$25.00/month), increases the longevity of clothing, is safer than dryers and most importantly, reduces the output of greenhouse gasses that affect climate change.

I thank you for your consideration.

Richard Stanley

5 Sherwood Lane West Simsbury, CT 06092

YEA for clotheslines! I love my clothesline! When we built our home, our builder said we could not have one. I insisted, and he relented. It is in my back yard, and it is not visible at all.

When I was a little girl in the Bronx, my mother hung her clothes on a clothesline to dry. There were no clothes dryers, except Mother Nature. I continue in that tradition. I actually enjoy hanging the clothes on the line, I like the way they smell and look. They do not shrink or turn dull from a clothes dryer. Mother Nature does not charge me anything for drying my clothes. Dryers are huge energy hogs.

I write an environmental column in my church newsletter, and I mention clotheslines a lot.

Thank you for doing what you are doing. Let's get these clotheslines with beautiful, colorful, and white clothes flapping in the breeze legal where they are not.

Susan Stauffacher

75 Rocky Mtn. Road Roxbury, CT 06783

We on earth have been blessed with the power of the sun. Throughout the ages the sun was used to dry clothes, outdoors, on a clothesline.

I find nothing as beautiful as the family wash floating in the breeze.

The clothes smell so fresh, and the materials and shapes of clothes are best preserved through this natural process.

Then came electric, and gas, clothes dryers!

Suddenly the world-wide, global, time-honored tradition of drying clothes with the help of nature was old-fashioned, outmoded!!

There are even regulations in town, condominium and PUD By-Laws prohibiting the practice of drying clothes outdoors.

Aside from the right of using our god-given natural elements which is being denied, is the complete lack of morals and ethics concerning the use of increasingly expensive, mostly imported, fossil fuels and the consequences for global warming and American security.

Let us return to our Norman Rockwell days, and conjure up a picture of Grandma with her apron and white hair piled high hanging up the family wash.

Oh for the good old days.

Roma Stibravy
304 Silver Creek Lane Norwalk, Ct. 06850 (2008)

Only in America are we so foolish as to shoot ourselves in our collective feet. We do not maintain property values, the argument that most homeowner associations use for their esthetic justification, by causing homeowners to pay for more utilities than they need. We do not maintain esthetics by increasing the burning of fossil fuels, polluting our skies and waters. We do not maintain property values by regulating our neighbors - this reduces the desirability of the property to many buyers. America was not built by homeowner associations protecting their esthetics.

Certainly, we can use common sense to reduce our imports of oil from countries who support terrorists and kill our soldiers. That's not worth getting our soldiers killed. Certainly, we can use common sense to reduce pollution. Certainly we can use common sense to reduce homeowner energy bills.

We have neighbors who dry their sheets, etc., outdoors. That is fine with us - and looks kinda nice. We don't have a good location for that, but have been trying to find a way to do it. We dry many things in the bathroom.

We have lived in this house two years and two months. In that time, we have had four people come to our house, unprovoked, to ask if we would be willing to sell because of our location, mostly the look of the house and our nice view. One woman told us just this last week that she has been driving out of her way to wherever to see our house, but only last week got up the courage to ask if we were interested in selling. I'm pretty sure that the neighbor's clothesline and sheets were not a problem.

Sincerely,

George Stone
174 Selden Hill Drive West Hartford, CT 06107-2139

Dear CT Legislative Members and Members of the Energy Committee:

We're personally bewildered and caught unaware to learn that the use of a personal clothesline is restricted for aesthetic reasons anywhere.

We completely support the Clothesline (Right to Dry) Bill and believe it a personal choice and a great way to reduce household energy costs. Please support and pass this bill.

It's entirely unfortunate that our elected (paid) officials, busy organizations like the Sierra Club and residents of CT, have to take time away from more important issues to create paper to tell people how to act reasonably.

Sincerely,

Sheila, Tom and Maggie Sullivan
1194 Black Rock Tpk Fairfield, CT 06825

I grew up in Milford a place where we never had to lock our doors. I had several sisters and a brother and everyday I would hear my mother say "thank goodness God dries" we could not afford a dryer on one salary and my mom was along with many a stay at home mom. Now I am still living in Milford and the city has changed a bit. I cannot afford to buy a home here but I live in a rental condo unit. We are unable, EVEN in the back of the property, to put up clotheslines. The reasons cited are for esthetics. I cannot afford to use the dryers all the time and I know God still dries but surely he doesn't care what my tee shirts or pajamas look like. Besides the money it is a huge energy waste. WAKE up America we all wear the same kinds of clothes!

Catherine Sweeney
1070 New Haven Avenue Milford, CT 06460

I grew up in a neighborhood where outdoor clothes lines were prohibited. My father would often say how much he missed the scent of laundry hung on the line like his mother used to do. I've used a laundry line since my husband and I bought our home eighteen years ago. I love my outdoor laundry line and can't imagine ever again living in a house where I had to use constantly use the electric dryer. Nobody has ever complained about our laundry line. Actually, I'm fortunate to live in a neighborhood where most of the neighbors use outdoor lines as well. I would hope with the passage of this bill more

neighborhoods like ours will go back to drying most of their clothes outside.

Kerry Swift

25 Pocono Ridge Rd Brookfield, CT 06804

Banning clotheslines is so very silly. Today many do not even know the wonderful fragrance of going to bed on sheets that have been dried outside on the line. But now it is an energy issue and we should quickly make it clear that it's perfectly legal to hang your clothes out to dry.

Muriel W. Test

103 Jacobs Ter Middletown, CT 06457-4128

In these rough economic times it is imperative that we take every step to lessen the burdens on individuals. An act which will save energy and money at the same time is a win-win situation. Lets pass this timely bill.

Peg & Mike Toto

22 Great Pasture Rd Redding, CT 06896

I am 100% in favor of clotheslines outside. The Merritt Parkway is in my backyard boundary and I am surrounded by trees on the 2 other sides. My neighbors absolutely don't care at all about my laundry and where I hang it. Neither do the thousands of motorists who pass my residence daily. I hang my clothes indoors and I never use a dryer because I want to lower my electric bill, to help the environment and to have my clothes smell wonderful honestly, like the great outdoors rather than a perfumed cleaning agent.

Jean-Ellen M. Trapani

12 Warnock Drive Westport, CT 06880

I have always hung out my clothes--only if they would need ironing, or in an emergency when someone needs something fast do I dry them in the drier. There is nothing better than climbing into bed and enjoying the smell of clean sheets that dried in the sunshine! With the price of oil as it was last summer (and certainly will be again) our way of life, which also includes minimal use of air conditioning, became a necessity.

Now that we are senior citizens there is a possibility that someday we may have to move into a town house or condominium. We would really like to stay in Connecticut where we have children and grandchildren, but I refuse to move into any place where i can't hang my laundry.

Sincerely

Barbara van Achterberg

359 Silver Hill Rd. Easton, CT 06612

My house is in a neighborhood of large homes. When I bought my house five years ago, I discovered a covenant written in 1986 when the house was built which restricts the use of clotheslines. I'm sure the designers of this document were well-meaning people who wanted a nice-looking street with pretty houses and yards. The idea of laundry hanging out on a line may have reminded them of poorer neighborhoods of their youth when people hung out the wash to save money or because they didn't own a dryer.

We have entered a different era, however. Now we are aware that our choice to use electricity instead of sunshine affects our neighbors. When we choose to burn fossil fuels that cost money, drain our resources and pollute the air, we are harming ourselves and our friends. An electric clothes dryer uses about 1,800 kilo-watt hours per year and at about \$.18 a kW-hour it costs \$324 a year to run. That's something we all should have some choice about.

According to Governor Rell's onething website, in Connecticut, 53 percent of our electricity is generated by burning coal, 19 percent comes from natural gas, 14 percent from nuclear, 7 percent from petroleum, 2 percent from hydro and the balance is from other sources like wood, garbage, wind and solar. You can find this at http://onethingct.com/energy_sources. Our hunger for electricity is creating big problems for us, so we need to try to use less of it.

In this country we are people who care deeply about each other and look for opportunities to help when we are aware of great need. I was amazed by the efforts of so many ordinary people after 9/11, hurricane Katrina, and after the Petit family tragedy in the town next to mine. In each of these disasters, people were desperate to help in any way they could. Connecticut people care. While not a sudden, catastrophic event, I am hearing more and more voices speaking out about our slower-burning climate crisis. Many people are taking action because they want to help this situation. I may be able to afford to run my dryer, but I choose to hang my clothes on the line because I care. I don't want to only look clean, I want to be clean, and so do plenty of others.

It takes me about 6 minutes to violate my neighborhood covenant and it's worth every second to have my clothes smell nice and to know I'm not harming the air we breathe. Plus, I have a few moments outside listening to the birds and looking at the sky before starting my busy day.

My laundry-filled clothesline is a banner that says, "I care!" Please pass HB5995 so that everyone has the right to dry!

Sharon Vocke
373 Wedgewood Road Southington, CT

I started air drying my clothes last summer. I hadn't realized there were so many different kinds of clotheslines available these days. I chose one that folds up and that I can place anywhere there is sun. I saved a good deal of electricity and so I gave indoor drying on a clothes rack a try through the winter. It worked wonderfully and added some humidity to my dry house. I am strongly in favor of allowing everyone, especially in these difficult economic times, to be able to air dry their clothes. It is better for the environment, saves money and gets you outside with a little exercise as an added bonus.

Mike Wallace
66 Easton Rd. Monroe, CT 06468

I have very pleasant associations of laundry hanging on the line, blowing in the wind and smelling so fresh when I put my clothes on, much better than when they come out of the dryer. I remember my mother hanging the clothes out and I associate it with home. I find this much more asthetic than the exaggerated "neatness" that so many people seem to feel is important, not to mention how respect for the environment creates so much beauty in the world overall.

Eve Wantuch
63 Mallard Dr. Farmington Woods Farmington, Ct.

Aside from the arguments that can be made for the use of clotheslines to strengthen the energy independence of the country (by not using gas or electricity to dry clothes, dryers being one of the most energy-sapping appliances in the home), the arguments that can be made for the use of clotheslines to aid consumers' to save money at home which can then be spent elsewhere to contribute to the economy, and the arguments that can be made for saving the environment which should be a priority to homeowner associations and condominiums alike (do they recycle?), clotheslines are a wonderful comment on clean, industrious, hard-working Americans who enjoy and partake in the health and wealth of the sunshine and outdoors.

Clotheslines are aesthetic. Clothes flapping in the breeze, colorful fabrics strung on a line are the stuff of not only photographs, but of life. My cousin, a professional photographer, who has had showings in New York City has an entire series of photographs of clotheslines with different arrays of clothes. The photographs, like the content, are artistic and beautiful. They are also a comment on life.

Some people think that aesthetics, indeed, life itself should be limited to their interpretation. In this country, especially, the perception that freedom should be curtailed to what others' deem to be important, or beautiful, or correct, or not correct, is wrong. There are some of us who believe that the landscape is not aesthetic when limited; that beauty is not uniform angular lines, nor is it conformity of color, nor repetition of similar shapes. Some people think that beauty should be limited solely to their interpretation of what is aesthetic, borne by a cultural adaptation and expectation devoid of individual expression. However, it is wrong to legislate the bland conformity of either the environment or the people that this bill seeks to achieve because of the exclusive opinion that has no support other than the aesthetic perception of a few.

Susan Weldon
103 Cottage Road Madison, CT 06443-3424

Please add us to the list of citizens who strongly believe in using sun and fresh air for clothes drying whenever possible. We use an outside line from early spring until early winter - as long as it's warm enough to keep the laundry from freezing! For those who hate having scratchy towels and stiff jeans, throw them in the dryer for 5 minutes on medium setting, then hang them out. Not sure why, but it softens them with a minimal use of fossil fuels. In addition, we use a drying rack in the furnace room for more than 3/4 of our laundry in the winter - the heat given off by the furnace helps to dry the clothes, so we're getting a secondary use from our burner...

Our clothesline is fairly inconspicuous, as it is in the backyard, far from the street, and off the second floor deck, but condos and upscale neighborhoods could simply use fences or Arborvitae hedges, etc. if the sight of clean clothes pegged out

on a line offends their delicate sensibilities! I would agree to a proposal limiting clothes yards to the back or side yard rather than the front yard, but to ban clotheslines altogether is ridiculous, especially in light of the on-going energy crisis.

We support HB 5995.

Don and Suzan Weller
95 Oakwood Rd Niantic, CT

When I hang the sheets out - it is amazing how my kids are drawn, like magnets, to run through them. I remember doing that as a child. Fond memories.

Jay Whelan
30 Cooper Road Ridgefield, CT 06877

For the past twenty years I have lived at the above address which is part of the Fence Rock Association. In the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions of the Association, Article VII, section 4, Clotheslines, states: "The only type of clothesline to be permitted shall be a rotary type which shall be reasonably located in the rear yard of the premises involved."

A rotary clothesline is very limiting in the amount and size of laundry that can be hung to dry; for example, hanging of sheets and tablecloths is not possible. I think any kind of clothesline a homeowner wishes to install to meet their needs should be permitted. I became interested several years ago in finding as many ways as possible to reduce my use of energy. Hanging my clothes out to dry was one option I chose. I remembered growing up in rural Pennsylvania where we hung all of our laundry out and the lovely fresh scent of our clothes and linens as a result. Hanging my clothes and linens outside to dry is one small step I can take towards reducing fossil fuel use and I want other Connecticut residents to have this opportunity as well.

I urge you to support this Act Concerning the Right to Dry. It will greatly enhance the quality of life we enjoy in Connecticut and help us to be more earth-friendly in our life style, a matter of great importance to me.

Charlotte White
128 White Birch Drive Guilford, CT 06437 (2008)

Growing up in Hartford, CT and Wethersfield, CT during the 1950's, my mom always air dried our clothes on a clothes line. My grandmother also always air dried her clothes as she didn't even own a clothes dryer. I do not own a clothes dryer nor do I ever plan to buy one. They are wasteful. Our state citizens would save a lot of money if they were able to simply hang up their laundry outside. The air is free! Why is the State of Connecticut so slow to adopt regulations to encourage free sources of energy such as the sun and the wind? Citizens should have the right to air dry clothes and not be harnessed to a wasteful source of energy such as gas and electricity. Thank you.

Deborah Wilson
6 Liberty St Vernon Rockville, CT 06066-3807

I'm writing to you in response to the proposed ban on clothes lines. How ridiculous that this is being considered.

Drying clothes out of doors reduces energy consumption through reduced electricity or gas use which are required to run a dryer.

Air polluting particulates which are omitted through the dryer vent are also eliminated.

I am hopeful that our legislators will spend their time more effectively on creating new jobs, reducing our energy consumption and providing incentives to live in a more sustainable manner.

Respectfully,

Donna Worst
28 Silas Deane Rd Ledyard, CT 06339

I strongly urge the Clothesline Bill to pass in our state for the following reasons:

- The air and sun are free, no fossil fuel\$ and no greenhouse gasses. Win-Win.
- The sun sterilizes the clothes

- The sun bleaches whites - Less groundwater contamination
- You won't need to use 'air-fresh' scented detergents or softeners, since the air is already fresh.
- No static cling

All WIN-WIN. To not allow people to do this would be insane, IMO, wouldn't you agree?

Thank you,

Chris Wrinn
56 Harborview Ave Milford, CT 0646-0539

I have been hanging my clothes out on the line for many years. I love knowing that the sun is not only drying them, but also disinfecting them. This was especially important when my son was a baby and wore cloth diapers. From a financial standpoint, I have observed that hanging the clothes out instead of drying them in the dryer consistently saves between \$30 and \$50 per month in electric bills. On really busy days, I also appreciate the fact that I am forced to spend some time outdoors in order to hang up the clothes. The many benefits of hanging clothes out to dry significantly outweigh any concerns about clothesline aesthetics. Additionally, the more people use clotheslines, and see their neighbors doing so, the more clotheslines will be associated with images of sun, health, fresh smells, and benefits to the earth as opposed to any negative connotations they may currently carry for some people. I sincerely hope that the legislature will discard the outmoded views about clotheslines and pass this very important bill.

Jennifer Yoxall
146 Pisgah Road Durham, CT 06422

I think it is very important for anyone to have the option to use a clothesline and dry outside. It saves money on your fuel bill, it saves energy and it saves wear and tear on clothes. It eliminates the use of those nasty softeners which gum up dryer vents and are responsible for starting fires.

Clothes from the line smell wonderful-- there is nothing like fresh bedsheets from the line. Not being able to have a clothesline has stopped me from buying a condo. Where do these people hang wet sandy towels and dripping bathing suits, etc. Smoke tainted clothing get refreshed just by hanging outside, no cleaners required.

Clothes line areas can be made attractive. People should be able to choose to line dry in these days of high energy costs, global warming and accumulating environmental toxins.

Carol Zaffino
53 Seaview Avenue Branford, CT 06405 (2008)
