

March 4, 2009

Jodi Blanco
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This Testimony is for HB. 6616 AN ACT ESTABLISHING WOOD SMOKE TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

To require the Commissioner of Public Health to amend the Public Health Code to declare that certain wood smoke emissions shall constitute a public nuisance.

I, Jodi Blanco have contacted my local Fire Marshal, Governor Jodi Rell, Board of Health, Michael Corronna, Mr William Wibbey from the Supervising Air Pollution Control Engineer, DEP Bureau of Air Management and all my Town Officials, Mr. Rand Stanley, Honorable Denise Menard, First Selectman, East Windsor, and Selectman Ed Filipone, Air Complaints, Joseph Hughkill who is currently away for a year in the Military and unable to contact any longer, Dave Collander, Toxicologist, Suzanne Blancaflor, Environmental Health Section chief, DPH, Nancy Alderman, President Environment and Human Health Inc, Channel 3 , Heather Hegedus, Reporter WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News, My Attorney Harold Cummings of Cummings and Lanza INC, Simone Upsey, American Cancer Society, and the Hartford Courant Paper currently ran an article which made the front page using my name and information to try to voice this issue on February 16, 2009, that it is harming myself , my family, relatives and friends and all of the neighbors around us, and still nothing can be resolved from this matter. I only hear I have no jurisdiction to shut the smoke down. I am asking that this bill HB. 6616 please be passed to all legislation and give the authority to those who can resolve this issue and put an end to my children's health issues and concerns.

In 2002 my neighbor Gary Howell, installed an indoor wood burning stove. It is now 2009 and my family and I have been breathing smoke related fumes, chemicals including kerosene, oil and other unknown wood mention ables, which he openly admits to neighbors to get his fires going, and oil from a sludged tank that the neighbor has had related problems with as well as unseasoned wood that is dropped here continually. He openly admitted to Mr Andrew Bykowski from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), that he did indeed burn oiled rags from his sludge cleanup and no fines to him were submitted at the time being February 6, 2008, when my first complaint was originally filed with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and my first emails to Governor Jodi Rell for relief concerning this matter.

I have photos of smoke continually coming into my property, into my home as the smell of smoke is strong at times and can be thick and black. My cellular shades are grayed from the smoke, and soot, as well as the soot that can be seen on the side of my home, if rubbed with your finger it leaves a black residue, and the windows that I continually wash and can see all the residue left from this. I fear the worst for my children as they are breathing a lot of this thick black smoke and their lungs are just developing and it is a known fact that wood smoke can cause health issues and cancer as well as diabetes and other unknown ailments as the particals are so small they can go through even a closed and or new window. Also many mornings the smoke is in front of our home and my daughter is waiting for her school bus and she tells me she smells smoke. It is a nuisance to us.

We can't go outside my home as it smells like a camp ground and there is always the smell of smoke outside. I have had my children playing in the backyard of my home and been inundated with smoke. I have had to bring them inside due to this related issue. My daughter will cough continually for hours after as it is a trigger for her asthma. There is also three wood stoves that are known on

Elaine Drive in Broad Brook, CT two of which are almost directly across from me and one on the left side of my home. On rainy and or foggy nights the smoke is close and low to the ground and can be smelled inside the home. I can NOT open my windows even with the arrival of spring from previous years or now as he is continually burning wood.

My family and I have been plagued with continuous trips to the doctors for the past five years. I was never sick until all this smoke became an issue. My daughter has been diagnosed by her pediatrician that she may be 90 percent positive that she has asthma and has been on several different inhalers, Abutrol, Ventinalin, and this wood stove is a trigger to her asthma related issues. I can also produce medical records for my children's health as well as my own if need be of dates of illness. She has had pneumonia two times back to back within weeks of each other and been to see her Pediatrician for antibiotics, prednisone, and rushed to Rockville Hospital in Manchester, CT for Chest X ray this last time. Her fever ran for four days at a high of 103.9, missed week of school, and the scare I went through and the smoke next door was endless. I fear the worst for my daughters health and my son has a continuous stuffy and running nose and has told me on more than one occasion that he does not feel well and a cough. I have headaches and have also had a cough for over 6 weeks, and twice been on antibiotics, diagnosed with rapid flu, this winter alone one of which was \$85.00 out of pocket insurance monies spent due to an illness that will not go away. My finance as well only seems to cough here in the home, and the concern I have is not feeling well a lot of times is affecting our home life and the quality of life we have. We also have contemplated selling our home and having to move but in this economy it is almost impossible at this time to do and on a one income basis. I have also installed a CO-Detector in my home in the Bay Window of my home where the scent of smoke is the strongest coming into my living room and I have had readings from my detector, as I have moved it to other areas of my home as well to get readings.

The chimney of the stove in question is next to my home but the stack is also below my home, as his house is a one story dwelling and my home is a two story dwelling, and almost directly across from my daughters bedroom window, and less than 150 feet away from my home as this is a very small residential neighborhood of 31 homes and a lot of wood smoke emanating from them. I have also given my neighbor a lot of information on the dangers of wood smoke and he himself has had a triple bypass, heart attack.

The Governor Jodi Rell has an act NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE and I have sent several emails to her about this issue to get some sort of resolution. I have asked my neighbor on more than one occasion to stop the burning but it continually is burning on a 24/7 basis. It is known also that the wood being used is brought in by friends and it is all fresh cut unseasoned wood, which sends more creole into the atmosphere and more particals to breath. It is not only a nuisance but a form of harassment on his part, and I have been continually harassed by him in every manner he has no concern for my children nor the quality of air they breath. He has even gone so far as adding more wood to the fire in the stove and after I asked him to shut it down due to an illness and or coughing from my children. He will fill the stove and then leaves his home and complains of excessive noise my children make outside at play to discourage them from being outside.

Thank you so much for you time concerning this matter and it is only fair that we have clean air to breath and we take into consideration the health of our young children.

Jodi Blanco