

Rep. Fawcett, Kim

From: Stacy Prince [skpabc@optonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 4:41 PM
To: Senator Meyer; Rep. Roy, Richard; Senator Maynard; Rep. Hurlburt, Bryan; Sen. McKinney, John; zRepresentative Clark Chapin; Rep. Backer, Terry; Rep. Bye, Beth; zRepresentative Fred Camillo; Rep. Conroy, Theresa; Rep. Davis, Paul; Senator DeFronzo; Rep. Fawcett, Kim; Rep. Fontana, Steve; Rep. Hennessy, Jack; Rep. Hornish, Annie; Rep. Jutila, Ed; Rep. Kehoe, Thomas J.; Rep. Lambert, Barbara; Rep. McCluskey, David; Lawrence.Miller@housegop.ct.gov; zRepresentative Craig Miner; Rep. Moukawsher, Edward; Rep. Mushinsky, Mary; Rep. O'Rourke, Jim; zRepresentative Jason Perillo; zRepresentative John Piscopo; Sen. Roraback, Andrew; Rep. Spallone, James; Rep. Urban, Diana; Rep. Willis, Roberta; zRepresentative Terrie Wood
Cc: Bowsza, Jason
Subject: Please enter this as testimony in Monday's hearing on RAISED BILL No. S.B. 792, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

I am Stacy Prince, living at 5 Little Lane, Westport, CT 06880

Please support this important bill. It's free, and it's a great way to send the message that Connecticut is a leader in protecting the nation's air quality and slowing global warming, both of which are already having a real effect on Connecticut's environment and health.

I've started voluntarily turning off my engine when I wait in lines, and it's not that hard. In fact, I've actually been surprised to note many minutes I'm often "just sitting" in my car waiting to pick up the dry cleaning, or get my daughter at school, or...you get the drift. By turning off the gas, I save gas (and money). And I feel good that I'm needlessly emitting CO2.

As a lawmaker, you have an obligation to put the good of the whole before the good of the few. Why should Bridgeport's (and Westport's) children not have access to clean air? **Why does the right of a car owner to waste gas trump the right of anyone who breathes?** Why should I be allowed to drive to the end of my road and spew CO2 and heavy metals while waiting 20 minutes for my kid's school bus? Kids used to walk to school in the snow, uphill, both ways (I know; my dad did!) Why can't kids sit in a cold car or, heaven forbid, walk to the end of the road!? Changing mindless idling behaviors is not that hard. Have we become such softies here in Connecticut that we can't adapt to basic scientific realities when the benefits far outweigh the downsides?

We *all* need to share the burden of changing -- truck drivers, stay-at-home moms, harried workers. (Emissions tax credits are an interesting idea for businesses, but they don't necessarily stop *local* emissions, and they don't address the "rest of us.")

Having a law like this in place will not change things overnight, but it *will* allow people to begin the discussion. I'll be able to walk up to other moms in the school pick-up line and say, "Hey, do you know about this great new law?" I can call the school and let them know. They might put up signs. Or maybe the crossing monitor will say something. It will begin the shift, create doubt, introduce mindfulness.

(And, based on how our state's officers dealt with the cell phone legislation, I believe they will be respectful of both citizens' rights and their knowledge of the law when implementing this one; it's no more likely to lead to unreasonable searches than than a burned out tail light would.)

A simple turn of the wrist can keep tons of CO2 out of our air.

Let's do it.

Thank you.