

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm absolutely distraught over the debate I've been hearing about concerning Connecticut's attempt to ban outdoor wood stoves. Being a small business owner for the past twenty years in the state of Connecticut as a landscape contractor my wife and I depend on our savings and loans to make it through the long cold winter months. Depending on plowing snow is an unpredictable proposition at best. Having our wood stove to rely on helps ease the burden and stress of buying expensive fuel oil during these tough winter months. Our wood stove heats both our work shop and our home in addition to the hot water in our home. That is a total of 5000 square feet. The amount of wood required is nothing compared to the requirements of an indoor wood stove that is less efficient and doesn't heat the entire home as equally.

When cared for properly an outdoor wood stove burns not only cleanly and efficiently but with much less wood than an indoor wood stove would to heat a comparable amount of space. Obviously this system is not for everyone. There is always going to be someone who will misuse it in a way it was not meant for. Each stove I have observed has warning signs in place to warn against such misuse. These are the people that the State should be looking at. When people drive while using their cell phones does the state take away everyone's car or phone? No. When someone drives drunk does the state refuse the sale of alcohol to everyone? I don't think so. I think it's the same case here. Just because some people choose to abuse their right to burn wood does not mean we should all pay the price. When I purchased my stove the good people at Mainline Heating and Supply in Ashford were very clear as to the laws and regulations that were to be followed when installing one of these units and we followed those instructions to the letter. I think it's unreasonably unfair that the many of us who followed those guidelines should be punished because of the few who have not. My wife and I have spent a great deal of time and money installing this system and absolutely believe that used properly it is a safe and efficient alternative to burning oil. I cannot begin to express the anguish and betrayal which the State of Connecticut will inflict that after having gotten the States blessing to install this unit we are now told we can not utilize it. I am including in this letter a picture taken today, March 5th 2010 of our stove which was installed both legally and properly according to the State of Connecticut's guidelines heating both our home and place of business. As you can see in the picture there is no massive plume of smoke billowing from the stack as some people would have you believe.

It has also come to my attention that the meeting of the State was brought about without proper notice to the people who stand to lose the most from any legislation derived from said meeting and is in my opinion that it be delayed so that anyone involved can properly organize so as to attend this meeting in a professional and informative manner.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Miner

