

March 4, 2010

Dear Environmental Committee,

I know that you will soon be deciding on new regulations for the Outdoor Wood Furnace industry and I just wanted to make sure that my voice is heard. I work at Mainline Heating & Supply in Ashford, Connecticut and I depend on that job for my livelihood. I recently purchased a small house in Eastford and now I am worried that I might lose my job and my house.

Before all of the negative press about these furnaces, business was good at Mainline. I enjoyed working there every day and serving customers (responsible customers) who had purchased an OWF and were no longer dependant on oil to heat their homes. Now I have to go to work every day and worry that my hours will be cut (again) or worse that I might get laid off. People are too scared to buy these outdoor furnaces because they don't know how the State of Connecticut is going to decide on the regulations on them. I don't think that my employer will be able to make it if these furnaces get regulated even further.

The worst part of it all is that this situation never needed to happen. There are already very reasonable regulations in place and the large majority of people are following these regulations. It is the problematic people that are ruining it for everyone. Can't you just come up with clear enforcement methods to deal with these people? These irresponsible people are creating problems for their neighbors because they know that they can get away with it. How fast would your average driver go on the highway if they absolutely knew that they wouldn't get a ticket? You would probably have a lot of people going 90 mph. Instead, people will keep their speed down because they know they could get caught and pay a big fine. The irresponsible burners aren't afraid of getting caught or suffering any consequences for their behavior.

In closing, I would just like to ask that you do not look into further regulations on outdoor wood boilers. If we could just enforce the regulations in place with certain and severe consequences, I believe that we could solve the problems that have brought this issue to the General Assembly in the first place. I know that my job and many others depend on it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Neim Mamudovska