





Raised Bill Number 126

My name is Kathryn Noyes-LeBlanc. I live in North Grosvenordale, CT.

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.” – Thomas Jefferson

For my family, our neighbors OWF continuously smokes out our home and our yard, saturating them with foul chemical odors, leaving my family trapped inside or sometimes forcing us to go for rides until it has cleared from our home. If large smoke outs are occurring in the late hours of the evening, I will go to bed with pounding headaches and forced breathing. I have had scaly, burn like rashes on my face; I have suffered over and over from intense pounding in my chest; as if a Roman Legion was using a battering ram to break through. I have had my sinus tissue swell, completely closing my nostrils, so only pink tissue jammed together was visible while looking up my nose. I have had brain fogginess, hearing loss, and anxiety. Anxiety, for my own safety and the safety of those most precious to me, my children, anxiety that has brought me to my knees in prayer, over, and over, and over, again.

The average human body breathes about 12,000 liters of air per day. When pollution rapes the air of her natural ability to give life, and every breathe you take depletes, rather than replenishes that life force, when it is disabling your bodies powerful ability to heal and cleanse itself; that is not freedom, that is injustice.

“No man has the natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another, and this is all from which the laws ought to restrain him.”, again Thomas Jefferson.

Outdoor Wood Furnaces are dangerous pollutants, and because of their poor technology and the ability to burn large unmonitored materials, will never be safe.

There where 700 complaints to the DEP by people who spoke up last year regarding Outdoor Wood Furnaces. How many more are needed so that the most basic right, the right to life, the right to breathe clean air, is upheld?

I do believe that “the care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.” You are that government and you have the power and the responsibility to protect the people.

I am here today for the safety of my children, the children in our communities, for the elderly, and those compromised in their health, I am here for the air that gives us life, and for this planet that sustains us. I have no motivation beyond truth.

As Senator (Mary Ann) Handley was quoted, “We live in a small state, and we have to look out for ourselves and do what we can to keep our environment clean and ourselves healthy.”

I ask that each of you be aligned with your highest moral guidance and that you are able to receive this truth and act upon it.

Thank you.

(Six Minute Testimony/areas in blue where excluded from three minute testimony)

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I have several times asked my neighbor to raise his flu, expressing to him all of these effects and he, each time, has refused.

Our contractors who worked several weeks sometimes with their faces wrapped in sweatshirts, demanding me to call the fire department, police department and other officials, because they were concerned for the health and safety of my own family and had a right to earn their living without harm to their bodies. These contractors saw my neighbor putting painted wood into their OWF, and DEP e-mails regarding my neighbors admitting to burning painted wood in the past and subsequent findings of “painted wood, stained wood, polyurethaned wood/furniture, and laminated lumber”, leaves us wondering what hazards we have already inhaled over the last three winters. Still, today there are piles of painted wood near this furnace, which leaves us fearing what toxins we will be inhaling each night.

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When silently we are robbed of our God given right to thrive, an injustice is being done. When families are violated everyday by odors and smoke, that against the bodies natural instinct, is forced in, by necessity of breathe, allowed to poison and choke any creature; that is injustice.

We have contacted every official imaginable for help, from the health department, local safety and government officials, the DEP, the state health department, etc., only to be told that they have no authority or “it takes time”.

“No man has the natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another, and this is all from which the laws ought to restrain him.”, again Thomas Jefferson.

I do not need to remind you why these machines create more pollution than other wood burning machines, of their faulty technology and inability to fully combust.

I do not need to remind you of the distance these pollutants are carried, the gases, the carcinogens, the toxins.

I do not need to remind you of the effects these pollutants have within a human lung, young or old, within any living creature and its tissues, within our soil, within the foods we then consume. These are all arithmetic equations, $1+1$ is 2.

I will remind you where my motivations lie. I am here today for the safety of my children, the children in our communities, for the elderly, and those compromised in their health, I am here for the air that gives us life, and for this planet that sustains us. I have no motivation beyond truth. I ask you though, to question the motivations of those that come before you today arguing for these machines. I ask the farmers here, to question themselves, are they here because they care about the earth that gives them life and their lively hood? Are they here for their communities and the people who trust them, the people who go to their farms with faith in their products? Are they here today as farmers looking for, needing, better solutions, or are they here today as retailers of these machines, who are abusing the noble and American title of "farmer", in order to guise their true motivations. I ask you, the senate, to consider this when you hear the testimonies of these individuals.

I hear concerns about consumers investments and I think, is there a safe guard against investments of any kind? If we buy stocks, or vehicles, or homes, and there values diminish, disappear, there often are no returns. If a consumer buys a faulty product because of lack of due diligence they are at a loss; if it because of dishonest manufacturer claims, they are allowed to seek the courts for justice. I find it even more shocking that these arguments for the consumer and the manufacturer come at the cost of momentous pollution and physical, emotional, and monetary loss for those suffering at the hands of these conscience lacking manufacturers.

Victims who have spent tens of thousands of dollars for their families to have the most basic right, the ability to breathe clean air, those whom have offered to buy their neighbors out, at cost of thousands of dollars to themselves, only to be refused. Those who have begged for simple acts of raising flues, not burning painted and treated wood, only to be denied. Neighborhoods that have agreed to pay partial heating costs in order to get these machines shut down. This is not justice, this is criminal. It is criminal for the economic advantage of few that many will suffer irreversible damages and many will suffer unknowing, because they are not educated on the symptoms.

Outdoor Wood Furnaces are dangerous pollutants, and because of their poor technology and the ability to burn large unmonitored material, will never be safe.

There where 700 complaints to the DEP by people who spoke up last year regarding Outdoor Wood Furnaces. How many more are needed so that the most basic right, the right to life, the right to breathe clean air, is upheld?

There must be a great abyss created, that divides the words renewable resources from being connected to machines that are gluttonous pollutants; a great embankment of protection and safeguard built against these kinds of threats on our environment and on our communities. In the words of Franklin D Roosevelt, "The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people", I do believe that "the care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first

and only object of good government.” You are that government and you have the power and the responsibility to protect the people.

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