



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

March 8, 2010

Raised Bill 126: An Act Adding Wood Smoke to the Public Health Nuisance Code and Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is David Boone, I am the Director of Health for the Town of Glastonbury, and Chairperson of the Legislative Committee of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA). Our members include a variety of environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consist of local health department sanitarians.

CEHA is opposed to Section 1 of Raised Bill 126.

Local health departments currently have the authority under the CT Public Health Code, Section 19-13-B2 and the CGS, Section 19a-206 to investigate and order the abatement of conditions constituting public health nuisances. The authority of local health directors over smoke related matters was recently confirmed in a letter distributed by the CT Department of Public Health.

We recognize that inhalation of smoke is associated with many respiratory problems and should be avoided. We also feel, however, that without standards and consistent analytical methods, field personnel cannot make a determination as to what degree of exposure is injurious to health, and therefore, which smoke constitutes a health nuisance.

The proposed bill might be interpreted to also require local health departments to investigate and cite sources of smoke such as campfires and barbeques, and we do not believe that is the intent of the proposed bill.

For these reasons, we oppose the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

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