



March 8, 2010

Co-Chairs: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee.

My name is Carolyn Wysocki and I am here today to speak in support of HB 126- An Act Adding Wood Smoke to the Public Health Nuisance Code and Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Wood Burning Smoke is not just a nuisance but a dangerous hazard that effects my health as I have Asthma, heart disease and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). My eyes water and burn, difficulty breathing, coughing and have to use my oxygen more frequently when smoke sneaks into my home.

My home is my refuge-my haven,. But it is not safe from the wood burning smoke that knows no boundaries. The chemicals emitted from wood smoke are stronger then those of second hand for which we now have no smoking laws. According to a recent CDC report ; *"People are usually exposed to mixtures of Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are produced when coal, oil, gas, wood, garbage, and tobacco are burned. . Breathing air contaminated with motor vehicle exhaust, cigarette smoke, wood smoke, or fumes from asphalt roads are common ways exposure occurs.* It is well to note that many of PAHs are considered cancerous. .I think we can all agree that wood burning smoke is hazardous to our health.

Some say that wood burning smoke is already in the public code under "Other" and complaints can be enforced by the local Public Health official but this is not necessary true across the State. I know that the DOH in my Health District would investigate a complaint, but others have told me that there is nothing the Local Health Department can do for them particularly smoke from wood burning furnaces. Leaving the public health code as it is leaves the "other nuisances" subject to interpretation .

Currently what constitutes a nuisance is specifically identified in Section 19-13b in the Public Nuisances Section of the Public Health Code This includes restaurants that are not clean, spoiled or diseased meats, transportation of garbage and dilapidated buildings to mention a few So , lets add "wood burning smoke" to Section 19-13b1 (h) to read *"Bone boiling, fat rendering establishments, or tallow or soap works, wood burning smoke or other trades, when they can be shown to affect public health or produce serious offense."*

Wood burning smoke needs to be added to the Public Health Code to assure that where ever you live in Connecticut and wood burning smoke is affecting your health that the Health Department will be there to help. Thanks you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

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