

Committee on Environment:

My name is Ed Dorsett and I live in Morris, a very small town in Litchfield County. I am here to speak in opposition to Raised Bill No, 830 an Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces. During the winter of 2004, I had a Central Boiler wood-burning furnace installed. We are in our seventh winter of heating our house and our domestic hot water by wood. During that time, I have never had a complaint about the furnace.

We live on a 38 acre parcel and cut our own wood from our own wood lot. Most of the wood is cut prior to the year it is burned and is stored under cover - in an old ice house. We burn a little bit of oil during the beginning and end of winter. Most of our heat comes from wood - a renewable resource which I find far superior to heating oil at \$3 per gallon and going higher. Much of the wood I burn is from trees that are down, damaged, or dead.

As I understand Raised Bill No. 830, burning my wood stove next winter will be illegal and will result in a fine of \$90 each day I burn it. The exception to this ban is "providing heat to the home of any person engaged in agriculture or farming" will be allowed. What does it mean - "engaged in agriculture or farming." I have no idea. My presumption is that if this bill becomes law, regulations will be written to implement the law. I have no faith that these regulations will be fair or sensible. The Department of Environmental Protection has produced a pamphlet claiming that my furnace emits an amount of particulate matter equivalent the amount emitted by the homes in Plainfield, assuming they are all heated by natural gas. Are all the homes in Plainfield heated by natural gas? According to the 2000 census, Plainfield has a population of 14,619 and has 5,676 housing units. There is no documentation explaining how the DEP determined that my furnace emits the same amount of particulate as 5,676 homes. Do you think that I believe that the DEP would write fair and sensible regulations.

If I am not allowed to use my furnace next winter, are there provisions to reimburse me for my expenses in buying the furnace. Will I be reimbursed for the thousands of dollars I will have to spend for heating oil. Will I be paid to dismantle my wood stove and change the plumbing in my cellar. What will I do to dispose of the downed and dead trees on my 38 acres.

I realize that these wood furnaces are not appropriate for every household in CT. and need to be regulated. But the outright ban of them is ridiculous. This is another example of government overreach. In my opinion it will not be long before wood burning stoves and fireplaces will be illegal.

I strongly urge all of you to oppose Raised Bill No. 830 which could take away my right to use my wood furnace which I lawfully purchased, lawfully installed, and lawfully use.

Thank you.

Ed Dorsett
131 South Street
Morris, Ct. 06763