

Senator Edward Meyer
Representative Richard Roy
Members of the Environment Committee

February 8, 2011

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Michael Bartlett. I am the head forester for Hull Forest Products. I serve as a representative of the forest industry on the CT DEP Forest Practices Advisory Board.

I would like to express my strong opposition to R.B.8301

In this age of attempts of our society to find renewable energy sources the sponsor of this bill demonstrates the tunnel vision exhibited by our so called political leaders and the lack of knowledge that they exhibit.

Hull Forest Products employs approximately 40 employees and additional 20 logging and trucking contractors. The economic impact of our business is an important part of the Connecticut agricultural economic activities. In recent years with the housing depression, the demand for lumber has been significantly reduced. Having markets for firewood has kept many logging contractors in business and has helped Hull Forest Products to stay in business. Many families have turned to outdoor wood furnaces so that they, themselves may remain economically viable and not have to lose their homes due the high cost of nonrenewable fossil fuels.

This sponsor of this bill does not seem to be aware of the changing technology associated outdoor wood furnaces that are becoming available. The bill would certainly seem to be a government taking without compensation. It has the potential to have a significant economic impact on the Connecticut forest industry as well as homeowners with absolutely no consideration for them.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Bartlett, CTCF#21
Forest Resources Manager

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