

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

***RE: Senate Bill 830, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES.***

Dear Chairmen and Environmental Committee Membership,

I am a resident of Connecticut and have had an outdoor furnace for approximately four years now. In this time, I have only had to purchase oil one time. My furnace is properly installed according to regulations and I have a town permit for it.

My property is over 18 acres. I can't even see my neighbors. The smoke from my furnace isn't a nuisance to anyone. Section 1.D.b. of Bill Number 830 states that outdoor wood-burning furnaces shall only be operated "for the purpose of agriculture or farming". My home is not for agriculture or farming, therefore the bill would stop me from being able to use my OWF. I'm sure that there are many other people like me, who are not farmers, who have properties where the OWF would be appropriate. We should not be denied our right to use the OWF because of a small few who are causing a nuisance.

I agree that others should not be affected by an OWF, but I do not feel that limiting its use to farmers only is the correct solution. If people are not properly installing or using their OWF according to regulations, the laws should be enforced against those specific people. Of course, no matter what regulations are set, there is always going to be someone unhappy. If there are specific instances when an OWF owner is within regulation and it is clearly still causing a nuisance to someone, that matter should be handled individually by the correct authorities to determine the outcome.

My recommendation would be to increase the distance required from the nearest not serviced residence from two hundred feet to perhaps three hundred feet. This would most likely greatly reduce the number of properties that would be able to use the furnace and keep them out of average neighborhoods where they would be more likely to potentially cause a nuisance.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hamilton  
160 Porter Road  
Ellington, CT