

February 9, 2011

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Environment Committee Members:

We are Connecticut residents who have chosen to heat our home with an outdoor wood-burning furnace. We purchased this furnace approximately five years ago. It was a major investment for us.

When we purchased this unit, we were given guidelines supported by the State of Connecticut. We meet all the State of Connecticut guidelines. We live on a property that is large enough and away from other homes that it does not affect anyone.

There are many reasons why we chose to use this type of heating:

- With the price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG increasing every year, heating with wood is an economical option.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times. Wood – a renewable resource which is plentiful in Connecticut, expresses our collective desire to become independent from foreign imported oil.
- Heating with an outdoor wood-burning furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning from using an indoor heating system. Because an outdoor wood-burning furnace is located outside the home, these very real risks are eliminated.

The State of Connecticut already regulates these furnaces in accordance with Public Act 05-227. These regulations are entirely reasonable and appropriate. Instead of banning the outdoor wood-burning furnaces, could the Committee consider imposing large penalties to those individuals who do not follow the current State of Connecticut guidelines?

We are extremely concerned that if this ban goes into effect, that we will lose our investment of over \$10,000. We will also lose our potential savings over the upcoming years if we are unable to use this unit. In this economy, it is very disturbing to us that this might happen. Does the Committee have any suggestions on what we will do with this unit, how we will pay to dispose of it and convert it and how we are going to recoup our investment?

The State of Connecticut recognizes this source of heating as economical and beneficial. They even offer tax incentives for individuals who purchase these units.

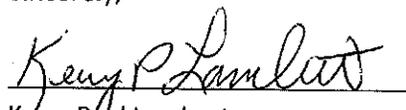
Once these units are banned, what will happen to wood stoves, fireplaces, outdoor wood burning pits – is the Committee going to ban them too because they create smoke just like the outdoor wood-burning furnaces?

This bill has stated that these units will be banned except for the properties that are engaged in farming. If these units are so dangerous to other individuals, what exempts farms? In our rural area, there are farms very close to other residential houses – how is this logical and fair?

We respectfully request that you OPPOSE BILL NO. 830, which will take away our right to use our outdoor wood-burning furnace that we lawfully purchased, lawfully installed and lawfully use and consider imposing penalties to those individuals who are violating the State of Connecticut guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Kerry Paul Lambert
50 Brickyard Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-779-8696


Elaine Patricia Lambert