

Protect our rights to Burn Wood and Use our Outdoor Wood-burning Furnaces

We are here today to vehemently and adamantly oppose this proposed ban and protect our preexisting right to burn wood and heat our homes and ourselves as is necessary for survival as human beings. Many of us also wish to inquire as to who proposed such an absurd idea and why. In doing so, you are really infringing on our right to pursue happiness and wasting our precious time. The following points should be observed and carefully considered with respect to this whole idea.

1. We Need Heat! We've been burning wood for years. Since the beginning of this Country, indeed, since the beginning of time. Some of us as a primary source of fuel and some as supplemental. Either way, it should be our choice.
2. Price is a major factor. And, for most of us, it is the main reason why we primarily use wood as a source of fuel, or switched back to, in this economy and unreasonable time in history. Many of us would simply not be able to survive if we had to buy oil, propane or electricity. We are **not** going to be slaves to big oil and the games that are played with pricing. When oil goes up, so does everything- all goods and services due to production and heating and shipping costs, gasoline, heating oil, propane, you name it- All, that is, except our income! We're being choked out!
3. We're already there! How can we turn back now? We've already invested in our furnaces and need to reap from our harvest and realize our savings. What would we do with the thousands of furnaces? Who would reimburse us for them? For us to stop burning wood, you would have to come up with an alternate cheaper form of fuel or energy. You would have had to put a cap on oil when it was 50 cents a gallon(like they did to the milk farmers years ago), and guarantee all Americans and residents of Connecticut affordable locked in rates. Guess what? **It's too late!** One reason this will never happen is because too many politicians themselves have investments in oil and simply are not going to lose there own profits. This is a cold hard truth.
4. Outdoor Wood-burning is Safe! No worries about fires! No worries about carbon monoxide poisoning for the thousands of homes that used to burn indoors. If we didn't burn in this safe effective way, we would have burned just as much wood to produce the same b.t.u. output. We're not burning anymore than we would had we not installed these units. We probably would just have loaded the smaller stoves twice as much or, for many, had multiple stoves going, therefore we've reduced emissions as a whole. These units are very efficient. When they're up to temperature, the door closes, and when they call for heat, they burn hot and clean! Also, only a very small percentage of homeowners(a few thousand) burn wood, because of land issues or access to wood. Do you realize how many

millions of residents/businesses in Connecticut alone use oil and produce far more emissions from poorly tuned furnaces? Where do you think electricity comes from in the northeast? The power plants burn **coal** to heat the water to run turbines to produce power. **Lots of coal!**

In Closing, we Strongly urge you to end this waste of time, and stop proposing such foolishness. We will never stop burning wood, or defending our rights. In fact, we'll push for more!

Let Freedom Ring!