

**RAISED BILL No. S.B. 830 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN  
OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES.**

**To Chairs Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and Members of  
the Environment Committee:**

My name is Michael Faucher and I am a resident of Putnam, CT.  
My wife and I have been living in our house that we built at our current address  
12 years ago.

I would like to share with you how our lives have been affected and how our  
quality of life has been severely diminished since 2008, when our neighbor  
purchased the property next door to us and installed an OWB (Outdoor Wood  
Boiler). I have had several friendly conversations with him about how the smoke  
from his OWB is affecting us. While he is sympathetic about our concerns,  
sympathy alone does not relieve our suffering. He operates his OWB from the  
end of October to mid / end of April.

My wife has severe Asthma, which is aggravated by being exposed to the OWB  
smoke. Her incidence of Asthma attacks ironically increases when he operates  
his OWB.

We take great care of and invest in our health by eating organically and live a  
toxic free lifestyle, only to have our health compromised by his pollution. We did  
enjoy clean air to breathe for many years living there, prior to his OWB  
installation. We try to keep to ourselves and not bother any one and are not  
"chronic complainers".

Our suffering began in the fall of 2008 when he installed the OWB. While it is  
doubtful he obtained any permits to install and verify the "site" location, it is  
approximately 250 feet from our house. The first year he operated it with no  
smoke stack. The smoke was brutally nauseating and could be smelled in our  
house, especially when operating bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans. It was  
getting in our attic and would enter through outside doors when we opened them  
to go outside. When working out in our yard, the smoke was dense enough to  
make me choke and my clothes would get saturated with smoke. I discussed the  
impact this was having on us with him and he explained he was going to install a  
smoke stack. I provided him with educational materials for site requirements and  
the health affects of the smoke.

The second year (2009) he added *some* smoke stack, but not as required by  
Public Act 05-227 and did not even come close to exceeding our roof line. He  
began construction of a building around his OWB and added a few more feet of

smoke stack. This did not help much as the smoke would come out of the stack and just hover and not rise and would fall to lower levels and create a plume that would "blanket" smoke around our house and property. I had further discussion with him and he explained he would be going to add more stack. I explained to him that our quality of life was greatly affected by his pollution and we were trying to be patient.

Now we are into the third year (2010 / 2011 heating season) of living next to his poison factory. I had further discussion with him last fall and while he once again assured me he would be adding more stack, which he did and now claims it is higher than the peak of our roof. This does not appear to be fact, but I have no way to verify the height. Unfortunately, even if his smoke stack was 10 feet taller than the roof of my house, it is doubtful it would help much, as the smoke is too cool to rise sufficiently.

While conditions are a little better since he installed the smoke stack, we are still severely exposed.

We cannot open any windows on warmer winter days to air out the house. To relieve some of my wife's asthma symptoms, we used to sleep with a bedroom window cracked open, which we can no longer do. When we put our little five pound dogs out in their kennel to do their business for five to ten minutes, they have come back in smelling like smoke. Even doing necessary outside chores such as cleaning up after winter's wrath, can be very burdensome and has caused me respiratory aggravation. Try shoveling snow for hours when you have to breathe this smoke. If you are not familiar with its nauseating odor, it smells constantly of fresh burnt extinguished wooden structure fire, such as immediately after the fire department puts out a house fire, multiplied many times.

As unfair as it would be to us, we have considered moving out of our "dream house" which we love, just to escape the exposure. It is doubtful we would be able to get fair market value, or if we can even sell it. After all, who would want to live next to a source of pollution such as from the emission from an OWB. If the State is going to allow this source of pollution from the OWB's flawed technology to affect surrounding neighbors, then the State should provide fair compensation to those suffering and affected. We are prisoners in our own house some days and the only way to escape is to get in our car and leave.

Please understand that I am greatly in favor of using alternative fuels to solve our energy needs, but not at the expense and sacrifice of people's health.

While I have carefully considered filing a complaint with the DEP, I have concerns little will be done to help us and I do not want to end up on a "list" that could one day negatively affect us.

In his address to the Nation last week, President Obama cited the "Clean Air Act" was established to ensure we have clean air to breathe. Well the ball got

dropped as far as OWBs are concerned as they have been proven to be a heavy source of pollution.

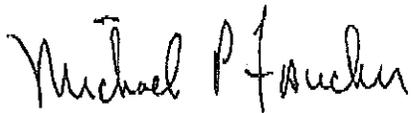
Allowing these devices to remain in operation and to continue to be allowed to be installed is a major step backwards into the "Stone Age". Unlike then, health affects are known today and people live closer together.

While even if this bill is passed, we understand we will not benefit from it living where we are. But we can feel assured that if we decide to sell (and can find a buyer), at least there will be some guarantee that where we choose to move to will be free from this exposure.

While my neighbor saves a few dollars each year on heat, we are paying the unfair price as the sacrifice. And what is he really saving? The expense is enormous to install an OWB and he still has to buy his wood.

Please protect the health and property values of the residents of Connecticut. The consequences are very real.

Sincere & respectful regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael P. Faucher".

Michael Peter Faucher  
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02/08/2011