

To Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and members of the environment committee.

The following statement is concerning R.B.830, an act prohibiting the use of certain outdoor wood burning furnaces. We DO NOT support any bill prohibiting the use of outdoor woodburning furnaces.

We own and operate an outdoor wood furnace (OWF) located at 290 Townhill Rd. in New Hartford, Ct. We have been the target of numerous complaints from Lawrence and Beth Terra at 312 Townhill Rd. The facts are:

We live on 15 acres. They have over 28 acres. We installed the OWF in 2008. After one initial violation, where the DEP informed us to survey and raise the stack as high as the ridgeline of the Terras home. We did this and the violation was closed. Our OWF is over 450 feet from their home. However, the Terras continue to complain. We have copies of reports from the DEP of over 40 complaints in the last 3 winters. The DEP has responded to ALL of the complaints. Agents for the DEP have sat and observed our OWF for as long as 2 hours. NO VIOLATIONS have been found. The DEP has been out, responding to another complaint, and the OWF was not even in operation. Farmington Valley Health Department has also responded to their complaints. FVHD has not found allegations of smoke and odor to be valid. They responded to a complaint of smoke and odor October 2010, only to find that our OWF was NOT in operation. All this documentation is available to the public. Mrs. Terra has stalked our home with a video camera for the past 3 winters. We finally had to call the police.

The Terras speak out against wood burning, but ironically have a LOCAL resident out and clear their land and take away the wood to burn at his residence, approximately ½ mile away.

We agree that an OWF should not be used in cluster housing areas. But that is for the state to mandate. We have a large land parcel. We SUPPORT the use of OWF and our right to use wood as a heat source.

The Facts, documented by the DEP and FVHD show that the complaints in this case are clearly INVALID.

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