

February 5, 2011

Environment Committee

*Re: Bill No. 830*

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy & Environment Committee Membership,

We live in the rural town of Pomfret, CT and in 2002 purchased a Central Boiler outdoor combination wood and oil furnace. As stated in the brochure "Heating with wood is endorsed by the U.S. Forestry Service and the Union of Concerned Scientists. We have closely followed the news articles regarding the use and concerns of the wood-burning furnaces. Understandingly we are very upset and concerned with the proposed **Bill No. 830** which seeks to ban the use of these furnaces.

- Burning wood is a renewal energy source and keeps our Connecticut dollars in Connecticut employing and affecting a wide range of occupations.
- Moving the furnace out of our home removed the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning of our family. As parents and grandparents, safety of your children is priority one. Every year hundreds of lives are lost to fires and carbon monoxide poisoning from all types of indoor heating devices. Annually thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices. We personally have seen creosote dripping down chimneys creating extremely dangerous conditions and annually may fire departments respond to chimney/house fires.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions, while heating with oil and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas.

The State already has regulates in place. The Act includes setbacks, chimney heights and proper fuel use requirements, along with establishing requirements for "nuisance" furnace use. If a user is not in compliance, then the town officials should be held accountable to address the problem. We do agree that there are some places within the state that outdoor furnaces are not appropriate. We believe this to be governor by the individual towns.

Suddenly and instead of enforcing the existing laws, we have been informed that under the proposed **Bill No. 830**, we will lose all my rights to use the furnace. From what we have read in the newspaper, this bill is being considered because there are a handful of furnace owners who may have improperly sited or are in violation of the current laws. Also, we understand that anti-wood burning groups are supporting this bill by making broad false assertions about these furnaces.

To single out one type of wood fired heating device is discrimination. Wood smoke from an outdoor furnace, indoor furnace, stove or campfire is wood smoke. An oil fired furnace which is not annually cleaned and properly maintained emits a lot of hazardous fumes into the air.

Our furnace is inside a woodshed and the wood burned is two years old, seasoned and dry. To burn unseasoned and wet wood is irresponsible and not cost effective. Last year during a conversation with our closest neighbor, approx. 900' away, he had no idea we owned an outside furnace much less have be using it for the past eight years. Another neighbor across the street, approx. 950' away, still thinks we burn wood stoves in our home.

**We strongly urge you to oppose Bill No. 830!** This bill will take away my right to use my outside furnace that we lawfully purchased, installed and are lawfully using. To allow farmers to continue to use the outdoor furnaces is also discrimination and a violation of our individual constitutional rights. Our oil burner is a part of this furnace and banning all outdoor furnaces would also ban us and many other families from using their oil furnace.

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