

I have been a Newtown resident for close to 28 years now. In 2004, our neighbor installed an outdoor wood burning furnace.

Little did we know at the time what a devastating situation this would cause for me and my family.

The furnace was placed just 137 feet from our home.

It operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and emits a billowing thick toxic, foul-smelling smoke that travels across our property line.

At any given time, depending on where the wind is blowing, smoke from this furnace invades our home. The smoke is so pervasive that we at times have to leave our house to escape the fumes, this is a form of home invasion! We also cannot use our yard or otherwise participate in outdoor activities as there is a constant flow of smoke on my property.

A study from NESCAUM has shown that one outdoor wood furnace pollutes the equal of 22 indoor wood stoves and between 50 and 500 diesel trucks.

Can any of you imagine living next to 22 indoor wood stoves or between 50 and 500 diesel trucks, 137 feet next to your home 24 hours a day?

Our quality of life has suffered because of a neighbors indifference and a lack of any laws to protect me, my family, and my property.

Where are my rights to breathe clean fresh air in my own home?

This smoke has caused my family many major health issues, including watery eyes, runny nose, respiratory and nasal irritation. Then there's the even worse issue of my wife's mysterious and unexplained bout with cancer.

You can't help but wonder what's next.

We cannot afford to move from our home and even if we could, it has been proven that outdoor furnaces have a major negative effect on property values. My home is now absolutely worthless. No one in their right mind would purchase a home with an outdoor wood burning furnace billowing out smoke 24 hours a day next to there home.

We are living a nightmare, and we have no way to escape from this situation.

A representative from the state department of environmental protection was on my property not long ago.

Smoke was entering my property and actually blew by our heads, less than 10 feet from my home. Still there has been no results from that visit. The representative did nothing to help my situation with state regulations that are totally inadequate.

These days you can't even smoke cigarettes in public in many places, yet this situation is allowed to go on.

In this day and age of anti-pollution measures, why is nothing done to protect me, my home, and family and other families who are forced to endure similar outrageous insult?

I have found that I have no rights on this matter! NONE.

I have come to the conclusion that the state regulations regarding outdoor wood furnaces as inadequate irresponsible and down right dangerous to the health and safety of our suburban neighborhoods.

These furnaces have absolutely no place in residential areas, and I respectfully request a complete ban as many other jurisdictions have done regarding these public nuisances.

Thank you,
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