

## Testimony of Thomas J. Darcy on Raised Bill No. 830

Members of the Environment Committee, my name is Thomas J. Darcy and I live in Hadlyme, Ct. In the winter of 2005-2006 my wife and I decided we needed to do something about our escalating heating bill. We were paying upwards of \$4,000 for fuel oil to heat and supply hot water to our home. With a modest 1,500 sq .ft. home and fuel prices for domestic oil only going up, we had to do something and soon. With a daughter soon to enter college, and our son behind her, our wages not keeping up with inflation and increased expenses. We had to consider different ways to get by.

That summer I had heard of an Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace. I did my homework and researched it. I had looked at 3 or 4 different kinds and decided on a Central Boiler Model 5036 (one of their smaller units but it fit my needs). Before buying I talked to all my neighbors in a ½ mile radius and told them I was considering buying and installing it. Everybody, and I mean everybody, thought it was a great idea. Most of them either have woodstoves (my nearest neighbor heats his home with two indoor wood stoves) or fireplaces. After crunching the numbers (fuel oil prices were only going up) we decided to buy. We did the installation ourselves to save money and we were on our way.

We have been using the furnace for 5(five) years now with great results. I have had zero, none, not even a whisper of a complaint about smoke from my neighbors. I burn nothing but seasoned (1 year minimum) hardwood that I harvest (locally) cut, spilt and stack. It's a lot of work for us to be prepared for the heating season (September-May), but well worth it. It is a family endeavor. Even my 13-year-old son understands the ramifications of not depending on foreign oil to heat our home. In fact, one of his school projects was to do a report on alternative renewable fuel sources. I think you could guess what his "A" paper was about.

Lately there has been a lot of misinformation about these furnaces in the press. Fact: My carbon footprint is much less now. Why? I am using a renewable energy source that I harvest locally. Fact: My dependence on foreign terrorist funding oil is near nil. Why? See answer to last question. Fact: Humans have been using wood to heat their homes since the discovery of fire!

**If this legislation is passes my family will suffer extreme financial hardship.** You tell your kid; sorry the legislature said we can't burn wood and have to pay for oil again so you can't go back to college this year. How can I be held responsible for some folks who are either ignorant or just don't care about how to properly operate their wood furnace? There are laws already on the books to take care of this problem (air pollution and nuisance laws). Where will it stop? No fires in fireplaces? No woodstoves? No campfires? No barbeques? Enough!

Don't let the few people who do not understand about how to handle a local nuisance dictate to the rest of us how to live.

Thomas J. Darcy  
Hadlyme, Ct.