



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut Since 1954

February 8, 2011

Raised Bill 830: An Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is a membership organization composed of a variety of environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consisting of local health department sanitarians.

CEHA supports Raised Bill 830.

In past legislative sessions, we have been on the record in our opposition to the use of outdoor wood furnaces. The research conducted by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management has consistently shown that the emissions from even the proper use of these units is a concern from both air quality and health effects perspectives.

We do feel that RB 830 does not go far enough in that it allows for agricultural exemption. We do not support this exemption. Even in rural areas of Connecticut, farms are often not large in acreage. Farmers homes may be located close to roads or neighboring dwellings, and the emissions from outdoor wood furnaces have the strong potential to impact neighboring properties and residences.

In a time when we, as a society, continue to search for "green" energy alternatives, we should not condone a technology which allows individuals to impact the surrounding community and create a hazardous and nuisance situation.

For these reasons, we support the passage of this bill, and hope you will consider a total ban on the use of outdoor wood burning furnaces in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

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