Jamie Zaushny, Coventry Connecticut
Raised Bill number 830 Lco No.2525
An act prohibiting the use of certain outdoor wood Burning Furnaces.
Mr/Mrs chairperson and members of the committee
Good afternoon members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Jamie Zaushny I work for Mainline Heating & Supply based in Ashford, CT. We have been in business for 14 years and employ 10 staff. Let me first start by saying a complete ban of OWFs will directly affect our ability to remain open as small business in CT. and will lead to a loss of jobs not only to the people I work with, but also the businesses that our product supports such as local plumbers, electricians, loggers and wood providers. We can not afford the loss of any jobs here in CT, especially losses due to irrational regulations.

Some of you may remember when Public Act 05-227 was enacted on July 8, 2005 which has specifically regulated outdoor wood-burning furnaces in the State of Connecticut.
As a responsible business we know the requirements of this Act and we make sure that our customers understand those requirements when purchasing and installing their units. The vast majority of our customers have installed their OWFs in accordance with state law and local town requirements and **do not** create nuisance issues.
A complete ban will have a huge financial impact on these CT Citizens.

We have received hundreds of calls from our customers over the year with an explosion of calls this past week with huge concern that their right to heat their homes "responsibly" with wood will be taken away by our government.
These customers are concerned that their financial investments of up to $15,000 will be lost and that having to pay for costly oil to heat their homes on top of the large investment they recently made will be devastating to their already tightened finances.
These consumers legally purchased, legally installed and have legally operated their units in accordance with this State Law. They have also paid Sales Taxes to the State of CT for all of the products associated with the purchase and installation of these units. Does the State believe it is legal to take away the property of this citizen without government compensation?

Last year we met with Attorney General – Richard Blumenthal and several Legislators to show them how outdoor wood-burning furnaces truly work

and to dispel misinformation that some organizations have pushed to them and the press.
I am very certain that last year when the AG stood beside EHHI he was not aware of Public Act 05-227s existence and that after learning a state law existed and that information provided to him and his staff was not accurate or was misleading - he exited the picture.
In fact, as many of you may recall, after seeing an OWF in operation and learning about the product and industry, Atty Blumenthal retracted his previous statement regarding enacting a ban and submitted to the Environmental committee his testimony in which he stated he believed fair regulations, enforcement of the regulations and a move toward more efficient technology should be considered.

Consider the consequences of taking away legally sold, legally purchased, legally operated and legally used wood heating appliances.
Connecticut has fallen behind other North Eastern states such as Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York - whom all specifically regulate OWFs based on emissions standards from the USEPA Hydronic Heater Phase 2 Program.
I suggest that the Environment Committee establish an emission limit consistent with the EPA Phase 2 Hydronic Heater Program and adopt regulations similar to those of our sister States.

Did you know that in the last 25 years appliances for burning wood have improved dramatically?
As recently as 1987, we would weld a steel box together and burn wood; Things have come a long way since then. Re-burn tubes down draft technologies, and catalytic converters for wood furnaces have already improved emissions ratings dramatically from where we where 25 years ago.
5 years ago Central Boiler (a major outdoor boiler manufacturer) created the E-Classic. This boiler has a 92% efficiency rating from the EPA .The e-classic can heat the average size home using 3-5 cords of seasoned hardwood per year (hardwood is a renewable resource).
Now there is a bill to prohibit outdoor boilers. How can we move forward with clean air technology when people want us to stop?

If this bill is passed, then how can we move forward, and improve the technology?

I am here today to oppose the bill #830 Prohibiting Outdoor Wood burning furnaces.
I feel there are many other options, other than banning the boilers.

Thank you for your time,
Jamie Zaushny