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**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut
in Support of Raised Senate Bill No. 830 An Act Prohibiting the
Use of Certain Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces**

February 9, 2011

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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and other Members of the Environment Committee. My name is Dawn Mays-Hardy and I serve as the Director of Health Promotion and Public Policy at the American Lung Association in Connecticut. The American Lung Association is a not-for-profit public health organization dedicated to fighting lung disease through research, education and sound public policy. I am here today to express strong support of the Raised Senate Bill No. 830, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces.

First and foremost we stand as a voice for the people who are being harmed now by outdoor wood-burning furnaces or outdoor wood boilers (OWBs) and who need your help. A prohibition will bring immediate relief for families who have wood smoke entering their homes on a continual basis. This is a critically important piece of proposed legislation consistent with the expanding body of scientific evidence that exposure to the kinds of particle pollution found in wood smoke is a serious lung health hazard. Many of the components of wood smoke are the same as cigarette smoke and therefore breathing it is very dangerous and leads to a number of lung diseases, such as pneumonia and bronchitis.

Second, we urge you to take action now to prevent this problem from getting worse. We are deeply concerned about the potential for more outdoor wood furnaces to be installed. If new units are installed the Department of Environmental Protection must adopt performance standards similar to ones used in other states or recommended by Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM).

We want to be very clear that the ALACT does not believe that meeting emission standards, setbacks or stack height requirements is absolute assurance that the emissions from these units will not pose a threat to human health.

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Although fourteen Connecticut towns passed ordinances to ban OWBs and protects its' residents, this too is insufficient if a statewide ban is not made into law because smoke fumes have no boundaries.

Finally, in the event that you provide any exemptions to this ban we strongly recommend the inclusion of a provision that would allow state or local health officials the discretion to intervene in the event that an OWB is deemed to be a public health hazard.

We appreciate your on-going efforts to address a number of related problems caused by high emission outdoor wood burning furnaces or boilers and wood smoke in general. And like you, the American Lung Association is committed to finding solutions to these problems. We stand ready to assist the Committee in this task.

Thank you.

Dawn Mays-Hardy, MS
CT Director Health Promotion and Public Policy
American Lung Association in Connecticut