Dear Senator Andrew Maynard:

I am a Connecticut citizen who has chosen to heat my home with an outdoor wood-burning furnace (OWF). Below are many of the good reasons for my own investment in this type of furnace.

- With the price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG increasing every year, heating with wood is an economical option—those who supply their own wood can save thousands of dollars a year on home, farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times. Wood—a renewable resource which is plentiful in Connecticut — expresses our collective desire to become independent from foreign imported oil.
- Heating with an outdoor wood-burning furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning from using an indoor heating system. Every year hundreds of lives are lost to fires and carbon monoxide poisoning from all types of indoor heating devices. Every year thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices. Because an outdoor wood-burning furnace is located outside the home, these very real risks are eliminated.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions, while heating with oil and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas.

The State of Connecticut already regulates OWFs installed prior to and installed after July 8, 2005 in accordance with Public Act 05-227. The Act includes setbacks, chimney height and proper fuel use requirements, along with establishing requirements for "nuisance" OWF use. Central Boiler, Inc., a US manufacturer of OWFs, worked with legislators on this original Act and moreover, in the last 3 legislative sessions has supported legislative efforts to add additional restrictions based upon the US EPA Phase 2 Hydronic Heater Program. This is entirely reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

Suddenly and instead of merely including additional restrictions, I have been informed that under a proposed 2011 Connecticut **Bill No. 830**, I will lose all my rights to use my furnace. Apparently the bill is being considered because there are possibly a handful of OWF owners who may have improperly sited and are improperly using their furnaces in violation of current law. Also, I understand that anti-wood burning groups are supporting this bill by making broad false assertions about OWFs, exaggerating numbers of complaints regarding OWFs, and using unscientific studies to support their claims.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO OPPOSE BILL NO. 830, which will take away my right to use my OWF that I lawfully purchased, lawfully installed and lawfully use.

Please let me know what efforts you will be taking to protect my rights from being taken by away by this proposed law.

Sincerely,

Andy Hurwitz Jr.
88 Bitgood Rd
Jewett City Ct.