

Raised Bill SB 830

Feb. 9, 2011

To Our Esteemed Leaders of the State of CT and in Particular the Environmental Committee

Please ban OWFs. They are bad. I can't help but think of wood burning as a backwards trend. I believe we need to begin to try newer cleaner technologies such as geothermal, solar and wind. I would like legislation enacted to protect homeowners from the wood smoke pollution caused by OWFs. I am thankful to this day that cigarette smoking is banned in public.

Wood smoke from OWFs is highly noxious and unhealthy as proven by undisputed data from independent medical and scientific studies. Nonbelievers are pretentious in their thinking that a neighbor should and must breathe the smoke and toxins generated by their OWF. In addition, how can anyone enforce and regulate the illegal burning of painted varnished wood or garbage. Will you be there to witness it? Will you be there to fine that user. It is only illegal on the honor system, and so far, I have not seen much honor.

Like mushrooms, OWFs are popping up everywhere. The inversion of smoke, thick and heavy and which one cannot breathe through is not unlike the past UpJohn plant of Hamden, CT, if you ever had the misfortune of having to try to breathe through those emissions, you couldn't.

Please ban these uncertified, flawed devices. We need to move forward in time and expend our energies on clean technologies.

Can you imagine what the air would be like if every household and commercial entity decided to heat with an OWF?

These retailers and manufactures have a vested interest. It is the emperor's new clothes. If heating with wood was sustainable it would never have gone by the wayside to oil and gas.

The smoke is everywhere on the highways and byways. We are in the crossroads of shifting energy, with a non-choice to go backwards with energy needs. There will be no going back if OWFs are approved.

I ask that you as our leaders of CT please, think about the harm being caused to residents who are simply trying to live peacefully at their homes and step up here today to pass legislation that will stop this madness. Heating a home with an OWF in a 200 to 300 rural residential neighborhood, is an unreasonable standard for the year 2011.

Let us begin to think globally and acting locally, that we can try something new, something clean. Ban OWFs statewide.

Sincerely,
Jean Breuler, 9 Olde Field Drive, East Haddam, CT