

Dear legislature,

I am a citizen of Ct. and a resident of the town of Winsted. As an owner of an Outdoor Wood Furnace I oppose the Bill # 830. O.W.F. are justly regulated under Public Act 05-227. Any issues concerning operation in violation of the act need to be handled on an individual basis. To propose an outright ban is like deciding to eliminate all vehicles because there are too many DWI and Teen driving fatalities. This ban will significantly affect all users of O.W.F. who have budgeted their family finances to purchase, install and operate their furnace to reduce dependence on foreign oil and provide heat for their homes. This is an unacceptable way of handling this issue. Incentives were given to me at the time of purchase as an alternative energy source. Now you wish to take away what you helped me to purchase. I chose this system to reduce the need for oil and budgeted for the installation of this unit with an estimated return on investment of 10 years. Now I will lose the ability to follow my well laid out plan and will incur the additional expense of having to install a completely new system that is not in my budget. Also I have been able to heat my home with wood cut from my property to clear for the construction of my home and by cutting any standing dead trees. I purchased a lot large enough to sustain my wood needs for my lifetime. I am a hard working, tax paying, voting citizen, who is also a volunteer fireman in my town and my American dream to build my own home and live in the country is about to be destroyed. Now I may be forced to decide to give up volunteering and find a second job or sell my property because my ability to live within my budget has been taken away. Do we really need to make it harder for us who are not deciding to throw up our hands and declare bankruptcy in a difficult economy? Also, if sold my property could be developed into 50 or more homes with the possibility of each home having two kids adding to an already overburdened school system in my town. If the mindset of outlawing outdoor wood burning furnaces is adopted then all wood burning appliances should be outlawed too. In addition outdoor burning at State parks and campgrounds should also be outlawed. All of these produce unwanted smoke. I live with two campgrounds within 2 miles of my home and the amount of smoke from these campfires leaves the area in a fog of smoke. This is during summer months when windows are usually left open to allow for houses to cool without using air conditioning and when clothes are hung out to dry. My furnace is used during the heating months when windows are normally closed. At no time in the operation of my furnace do I ever emit even a tenth of the quantity of smoke as these campgrounds do. I view many homes on my drive to work that have wood burning stoves or fireplaces and consistently I notice greater amounts of smoke than I see from my O.W.F. Additionally if environmental issues are the main concern then we should ban all oil and gas furnaces as these are completely unmonitored and the quantity of pollution from any given furnace is unknown, as no testing on individual furnaces is performed. Just because you do not

see smoke does not mean that there are no emissions being generated. We perform emission testing of cars but not on furnaces. At a rate of 10,000 miles a year and at 29 mpg I use 344 gallons of fuel in a year. In my last house during a year of use I would use 825 gal. of heating oil. Which of these two do you think would have a larger affect on the environment. 344 gals of fuel through a car tested to assure all systems work correctly or 825 gallons through an untested furnace. Additionally wood fuel requires much less processing before use. Oil and Gas must be brought up from the earth then transported to a refinery to be made into a useable fuel, then transported to the local storage facility then transported to the dealers and then transported to the end user (homeowner). My wood is cut on my property, and placed into my furnace to provide heat. This is a significant reduction in the fuel and resources needed to produce heat for my home. All of those steps add to the high cost of heating fuel used by consumers. I have effectively eliminated those steps by being self sufficient from my own property. Also, wood from neighbors with storm damage can be used for fuel for my furnace eliminating the need for them to open burn to dispose of it or hauling of it to a landfill. My neighbors are very thankful for me to come and remove the storm damage wood for them. My two sons are also learning the value of hard work by watching and helping in preparing wood for winter. In a society where most people lead a very inactive lifestyle my sons are learning to be active and self sufficient. This will only help them later in life. Please realize the value in these OWF beyond just the reduction in dependence of foreign oil and gas but in the message it sends regarding being a hard working self sufficient American resident. Help those who help themselves, we give enough to those who choose not to. Thank you for time.

Sincerely, Scott Reeves

Winsted, Ct.