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Town of Woodbury
Zoning Board
Main Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Re: Outdoor Wood Furnace (OWF) Application - Stokes
76 Cross Brook Road

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter and attached information to substantiate our request for you to deny this application. As one can see from the attached documentation, we have been trying to address this issue for over two (2) years, contacting the DEP, the Pomperaug Health District, the Attorney General's office, our Selectman and various other state and local officials. Every organization refuses to enforce the regulations that are in place to prevent the harm this OWF is inflicting on our health, our quiet enjoyment of our homes and the value of our property. We recently discovered that Mr. Stokes had never obtained a zoning permit or approval for this OWF, yet he has been burning for over two years. It is from this information that we began researching the Purpose and Authority that the Zoning Board enjoys, to see if there was any regulation which would apply to shut this down. We actually found two areas where we know the Zoning Board can rightfully exercise their power and deny this application.

Page 1, Section 1. General 1.1 Purpose and Authority

- 1. To provide for the best use of land in the Town of Woodbury Connecticut, to conserve and stabilize the value of property; to promote health, safety and the general welfare...*
- 2. ...to provide for the preservation of desirable open space, tree cover, historic related resources, water resources, ridgeline and other environmentally important lands, soils and geologic phenomena, ...*

It is proven that the burning of this OWF (and any other) seriously pollutes our air, both outside and *inside* our homes. It is affecting our breathing and general good health. Our neighbor, Mr. Gelada, suffers from asthma, and his condition is exacerbated every time this OWF is used. My husband, too, has trouble breathing when the smoke permeates our home, to the point where we have to close everything and turn on the air conditioning... even in colder weather... just so he can breathe! Clearly a violation of the first item.

I have had the opportunity to speak with Wanda Rondeau, Brooklyn, CT, who had successfully had a neighbor's OWF shut down. One of the main reasons was they were able to prove that the particulates were a major contributor to her children's breathing problems. And, she was informed that once these particulates enter the lungs, they cannot be removed! She also had information that the OWF, being in a similar proximity to her home as Mr. Stokes' is to ours, rendered her property virtually unmarketable. Again, an issue the Zoning Laws are in place to protect.

Finally, the residue and particulates which emanate from the stack, are washed into the ground every time it rains, contaminating our gardens, lawns, wetlands and open space which is contrary to the zoning intent of preservation (item 2).

We feel confident that your board will see the logic and reason of our request, and we will be in attendance at the upcoming meeting should you wish us to answer any questions.

We appreciate your efforts on our behalf to deny this application, and trust that you will support our request to preserve our health, property values and our precious environment.

Thanking you so very much for you time and consideration,

Andrea & Bruce Fitzgerald
66 Cross Brook Road
Woodbury, CT

Cc: Louis and Sara Gelada
64 Cross Brook Road