



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut Since 1954*

February 21, 2012

Raised Bill 84: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is a membership organization composed of a variety of environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consisting of local health department sanitarians.

**CEHA opposes Raised Bill 84.**

In past legislative sessions, we have been on the record in our opposition to the use of outdoor wood furnaces. The research conducted by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management has consistently shown that the emissions from even the proper use of these units are a concern from both air quality and health effects perspectives.

In our opinion, RB 84 does not go far enough in that by allowing the use of outdoor wood furnaces during the colder months, residents will still suffer from exposures from outdoor wood furnaces for two-thirds of the year. This bill, although it may be considered a fair starting point to reduce emissions, does not serve to protect the public's health in a meaningful way.

In a time when we, as a society, continue to search for "green" energy alternatives, we should not condone a technology which allows individuals to impact the surrounding community and create a hazardous and nuisance situation.

For these reasons, we oppose the passage of this bill. We encourage you to consider, as many Connecticut municipalities already have, a ban on the use of outdoor wood burning furnaces.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

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