



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322

(860) 768-1100 • Fax (860) 768-1108 • www.cfba.org

February 21, 2012

Testimony in Opposition to:

Raised Bill no. 84: AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING FURNACES

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

We are opposed to this bill as currently written because it will do economic damage to some Connecticut Farmers that use outdoor wood burning furnaces to heat water for their farm operations during the time of the year that this legislation seeks to ban their use. The two largest commodity groups that would be negatively impacted would be Dairy Farmers, that heat water 365 days a year, and Greenhouse Growers, for whom the heating season lasts well into May, and might be needed well before September 30. Given the diversity of Connecticut Agriculture, there it is difficult to calculate how many other farm operations that use heated water during the proposed ban interval that would be negatively impacted in addition to the two main groups already mentioned.

This bill would also punish the vast majority of outdoor wood burning furnace operators that operate their furnaces without bothering anybody. If you are really informed about this issue, you know that a small number of stoves generate a large number of the problems for their neighbors.

Would it be possible to amend this proposed legislation to exempt commercial agriculture from the proposed ban? I would also propose only banning residential use if a complaint has been received. This would address the problem units without punishing the furnace operators that do not cause problems.

Without these changes, we urge the defeat of this proposed legislation: Raised Bill 84 AN ACT CONCERNING OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING FURNACES.

Thank you : Don Tuller President Connecticut Farm Bureau Association