

ECHO

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February 22, 2012

Public Hearing on SB 84 –An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Members of the Environment Committee, my name is Carolyn Wysocki and as President of Ecological Health Organization, Inc. (ECHO) and behalf of our members, I **can not support** - **SB 84 An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces. Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces are a danger to human health and should be prohibited in Connecticut.**

In January 1992, 20 years ago, ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit, advocacy, support, education and referral organization for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and for others who care about its prevention. We are one of the first organizations in Connecticut linking environmental issues and public health and our MCS members are living proof of the linkages between the environment and health. **Many of our members report severe reactions to chemicals found from the Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces. These reactions include asthma attacks, skin rashes, and burning of the skin, headaches, sore throat, bronchitis and chronic sinusitis.**

Smoke from burning of wood results in high concentrations of toxic air pollution at ground level and generates hundreds of toxic compounds – many of them carcinogens. According to a *Clear Air Fact Sheet*, “Particulate pollution is the most important contaminant in our air. ...we know that when particle levels go up, people die. Health care costs due to trips to the ER, hospitalizations, doctor and medicines all increase with respiratory, cardiovascular illnesses and allergies associated with wood-burning

An EPA Study concludes that breathing wood smoke particles during high pollution day is equivalent to smoking 4 to 18 cigarettes and pollutants released from Wood-Burning are the same toxic chemicals found in cigarettes. **In January of 2010, New Hampshire State Department of Environmental Health issued a warning of unhealthy air pollution levels over its southern towns.** Officials noted that much of the pollution was coming from wood-burning stoves and boilers that gets trapped near the ground. Even more alarming, twelve chemicals in wood smoke are listed as carcinogens by the U.S. Government; twenty-five chemicals found in wood smoke are indicated as hazardous chemicals with an ATSDR toxicological profile. Some of these chemicals include arsenic, benzene, dioxin, formaldehyde and lead. These are examples of various chemicals which cause serious health reactions for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

Smoke from these Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces are penetrating inside the houses of several of our members. We have made our homes as free from toxic chemicals in creating a safe haven from the toxic environment. When your neighbor is using an outdoor wood-burning furnace, deadly pollutants seep inside your house as well.

Preventing chemical injury and MCS is the reason ECHO does not, and can not in good conscience, support SB 84.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Wysocki President, ECHO

ECHO'S MISSION: *To safeguard the health and well-being of the environment and its inhabitants*