

Raised Bill 1134: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Sen. Meyer, Rep. Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is John Shamansky and I own and operate Connecticut Outdoor Wood Furnaces located in Woodbury, Connecticut and I am a Central Boiler dealer.

I would like to thank the Committee for not pursuing a ban on Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces (OWFs) or other proposals which would financially hurt consumers. I would also like to thank you on the behalf of all of my customers who are more than thrilled they don't have to take time off of work to come down here to ensure that their right to use OWFs are not jeopardized.

Over the last several years Central Boiler and I have been promoting the EPA's Voluntary Emission Reduction Program. I believe that this is the most reasonable approach that the Environment Committee could take towards updating Connecticut's statute on OWFs. By simply establishing particulate matter (PM) emission limits consistent with EPA's Phase 2 Hydronic Heater Program (0.32 lbs/million Btu heat output) the Committee is ensuring that the latest in new technology are available to our consumers. Even though not required I already make these OWFs available to my customers.

I would have like to see this Bill include a provision with a minimum chimney height requirements of 17 ft. since no concessions were made to reduce the existing setback requirement of 200 ft. I would like to have seen provisions regarding EPA Phase 2 installation requirements that would have encouraged consumers to voluntary change-out their existing non-Phase 2 units.

Otherwise, I hope that the CT DEEP will consider a review of the installation requirements after the Federal regulations are enacted.

I have attached a summary of setback and chimney height requirements enacted in other States for your review.

Thank you again for proposing a Bill that did not require hundreds of existing OWF consumers to take work off to oppose a Bill that would hurt their ability to use existing OWFs that were installed in complete compliance with existing State law.

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Corresponding setback and chimney height requirements enacted in other States with a PM emission limit of 0.32 lbs/million Btu heat output.

- NESCAUM Model Rule - No setback requirements (no chimney height requirements).
- Vermont – 100 ft. from neighboring residence (no chimney height requirement).
- Maine – 50 ft. from the property line or 70 ft. from the nearest neighboring residence (chimney taller than own house if neighbors are within 300 ft.).
- New Hampshire - 50 feet from a property line (no chimney height requirement).
- Massachusetts -50 feet from a property line and 75 feet from a neighboring residence (chimney taller than any roof structure within 150 ft. if neighboring residences are within 150 ft.).
- Maryland – No setback requirement (no chimney height requirement).
- Pennsylvania - 50 feet from a property line (chimney height - 10 ft. minimum).
- Rhode Island – No setback requirement (no chimney height requirement).
- New York – 100 ft. from the property line or if on 5 contiguous acres 100 ft. from the nearest neighboring residence (chimney height – 18 ft. minimum or in some cases could be required to be higher).
- Indiana – No setback requirements (no chimney height requirement).