

Testimony of Environment and Human Health, Inc.

By Nancy Alderman, President

Bill No. 1134

An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Linda Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc is in support of Bill 1134.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. would like to thank both the CT DEEP and Senator Ed Meyer for working on the very difficult outdoor wood furnace issue and trying to protect the health of Connecticut's citizens.

This Bill stipulates that any outdoor wood furnace (OWF) bought in Connecticut after October 2013 must be a Phase II Unit.

We know that Phase II units are better than Phase I units - but they too are polluting - just not quite as bad. The fact that OWFs remain so polluting is why EPA has never certified any of them --- as EPA has done for their certified **indoor** wood stoves.

As scientists, physicians and public health professionals, we feel it is our duty to testify that Phase II units will not protect the public's health – and those living near older Phase I units will remain sick and remain unable to sell their homes in order to move out and thereby protect the health of their families.

Wood smoke contains many of the same components as cigarette smoke, and while the state highly regulates cigarette smoke, we have almost no “health-protective” regulations that protect families from breathing in wood smoke 24 hours a day 7 days a week from neighbors' outdoor wood furnaces.

This Bill is a step forward and so we support it. We suspect that all people who know this issue well and know how harmful these wood-burning devices are, know full well this will not protect the public's health.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
March 2013