

Connecticut Association of Directors of Health

Testimony In Support of Raised Bill No. 66: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood Furnaces

To the Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the Environment Committee
February 19, 2014

Good afternoon, distinguished co-chairs and members of the Environment Committee. My name is David Boone, and I am representing the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (“CADH”). I am also the Director of the Town of Glastonbury Health Department.

CADH strongly supports *Raised Bill No. 66: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood Furnaces* (“OWFs”). Over the years, CADH has been concerned not only with the potential adverse health outcomes posed by exposure to OWF emissions, but the nuisance characteristics of OWF use, which often impact not only neighbors, but neighborhoods. Our current OWF regulation, CGS 22a-174k, has served well in that provisions regarding separating distances to neighboring residences, stack heights, and acceptable fuels have tended to mitigate the adverse impacts of OWF use on neighbors, and thereby reduced the number of complaints needing to be investigated and acted on by local health departments.

The current safeguards contained in 22a-174k will sunset when EPA establishes regulations covering emissions from OWF’s. The EPA regulation will only cover emission standards, and not address some of the protections in our current law. CADH feels that maintaining minimum separating distances, specifying stack heights, and requiring the burning of clean fuels would provide needed levels of protection to Connecticut citizens living near newly installed OWF’s.

RB 66 would restore these essential tools to both State and local agencies. Please act to maintain these important protections for our citizens.

CADH is a nonprofit organization comprised of Connecticut’s 77 local health departments and districts. Since its incorporation in 1996, CADH has and continues to convene, engage, mobilize, and support Connecticut’s local health departments and districts to strengthen and assure efficient and effective delivery of public health services. Local health directors are the statutory agents of the Commissioner of Public Health and are critical providers of essential public health services at the local level in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration.