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Testimony before the Environment Committee

Michelle Caul, Manager of Health Education

An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Good Morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and other Members of the Environment Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Michelle Caul and I serve as the Manager of Health Education at the American Lung Association (ALA) in Connecticut. The American Lung Association is a not-for-profit public health organization dedicated to fighting lung disease through research, education and public policy.

ALA in Connecticut supports the Raised Senate Bill No. 66, An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces which maintains certain requirements concerning the installation and use of outdoor wood-burning furnaces and requires owners of such units to burn only wood that is not chemically treated.

The new federal rules do not cover several provisions which are included under the current law in Connecticut such as setbacks, stack heights and more.

We urge you to pass this bill and follow up with additional public health protections such as taking strong action to protect people whose health is being threatened by their neighbors' wood burning. In regards to outdoor wood furnaces. The American Lung Association in Connecticut is committed to finding solutions to these environmental problems.

Thank you,

Michelle Caul
Manager, Health Education
American Lung Association in Connecticut