

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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Executive Director

TESTIMONY

DATE: February 19, 2014

TO: Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

FROM: Karl J. Wagener
Executive Director

RE: Raised Bill 66, AAC Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

The Council on Environmental Quality recommends adoption of this bill. Like many of you, the Council has received complaints about excessive smoke from outdoor wood-burning furnaces. The smoke can be hazardous even when the furnace is 200 feet from another house and the stack meets the statutory requirement. Those existing siting requirements are minimally adequate, but – and this is the key point – even those requirements will be nullified when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finally issues emission limits, unless this bill is adopted. If the existing language remains in effect, the result will be that I will be allowed to construct an outdoor wood-burning furnace as close to my neighbor's windows as I want.