

Episode 56SP April 1, 2024. RAWSEP, the Talk Show, Part 1.

RAWSEP, Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, the Talk Show, Part 1. One current president and two ex-presidents of one of the most powerful nations on earth walked onto a stage, and sat down with a comedian on his talk show, in a bid to appeal to their current and former constituents. Their audience consisted of only potential donors. Bits of the conversation were strategically leaked in intriguing sound and video bytes to demonstrate the talking points that appealed to the donors most. Surprisingly, the topic that generated the most donations to their cause was... shutting down indoor residential wood burning, one indoor residential wood burner by one indoor residential wood burner at a time, if necessary.

Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates (RAWSEP), a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Talk Show.

On stage.

The Comedian, hereafter known as C

The current President, hereafter known as B

The most recent former president, hereafter known as O

The other recent former president, hereafter known as L

C: We are here to laugh, if possible, at the incredible slowness of government in dealing with the life-denying pollution caused by indoor residential wood burning.

B, O and L: Ha ha! (The audience gasps, and then coughs)

C: We are all familiar with the litany of woes to near neighbors of indoor residential wood burning. First, the PM2.5 factor. Wood smoke is 90% PM2.5, particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung, setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths. Wood burning emits 2.8 times the CO2 and PM2.5 as the fossil fuel coal burning. Wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning. Scientific, medical and statistical peer-reviewed academic papers show the clear link between indoor residential wood burning and many kinds of cancer, the clear link between indoor residential wood burning and asthma and the clear link between indoor residential wood burning and dementia and depression.

B: Sounds a lot like the health problems from military burn pits.

C: Indoor residential wood burning is done inside residences so it is unknown what, besides wood, is being burned in these residences.

O: Sounds a lot like the health problems caused in June 2023 when Canadian wildfire smoke breached the United States' borders and sickened large swaths of the United States.

L: But should we really be concerned about a nation as tiny and inconsequential as the United States, or concerned with a nation nearly as inconsequential, Canada?

C: We share a common humanity, and the same eyes and lungs.

L: Oh yes, indoor residential wood burning smoke also causes cataracts. Do we really want to see more politicians reading boring statistics with their glasses ridiculously perched at the end of their nose? At least wear prescription ski goggles, which protect the eyes from airborne particulates at the same time!

B: And ski goggles also have cool mirror lenses. I could see myself wearing ski goggles while driving an electric Corvette at a trade show!

C: Yes, yes, ski goggles are supercool. (Audience oohs and aahs).

C: I see that our audience of near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners wear ski goggles in their own back yards, to protect their eyes. That is just one of the ways that our audience members protect themselves from the PM2.5 from hyperlocalized indoor residential wood burning, since there are currently not any particular laws we could readily name to shut down indoor residential wood burning emissions that enter the yards of near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners and sicken the near neighbors.

C: Audience, shout out other ways that you protect yourselves from the PM2.5 from indoor residential wood burning.

Audience roars: Stay inside our sealed homes and keep multiple air purifiers running! Aargh!

Audience: Hang PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors from the eaves of our houses and stay inside our sealed homes when PM2.5 levels are high.

Audience: Leave our homes and go to community shelters with adequate air purification when PM2.5 levels are high?

C:Wrong! Community shelters with adequate air purification were offered when Canadian wildfire smoke infiltrated the United States in June 2023! That is not offered routinely to individual neighbors of indoor residential wood burners any time they feel like they are choking!

Audience:We don't exactly want community shelters with adequate air purification. We want to be able to stay in our own homes during these neighborhood incursions of wood smoke into our yards and infiltrating our homes when we open doors or windows, or if our homes leak the wood smoke in.

C:So what the audience wants is better insulation for their homes!

Audience: (Big gasp, followed by choking sounds).

C:Is the audience trying to say something, maybe?

Audience:Insulation is nice. Don't get us wrong, we like insulation. It keeps our homes cooler in the summer as well as warmer in the winter.

C:Better insulation is the answer!

Audience: Why not prevent PM2.5 pollution in the first place? Why not hand out PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors to any near neighbor of an indoor residential wood burner whose wood smoke enters the near neighbor's yard and sickens the near neighbor? Why not pass laws such as local ordinances, state laws or federal laws that shut down indoor residential wood burning if the PurpleAir PM2.5 data, downloadable by any member of the public, shows levels of PM2.5 above Environmental Protection Agency National Ambient Air Quality Standards (EPA NAAQS) which in 2024 are 9 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 35 micrograms per cubic meter in a 24 hour period? Low cost resident owned PurpleAir PM2.5 monitor data is already used on U S AirNow Maps of smoke and fire, alongside \$100,000 EPA PM2.5 monitors, to warn residents of dangerous levels of PM2.5 in their area, ostensibly from wildfires.

C:Why not indeed? These audience members sure have their thinking caps on!

Audience members: We've had a lot of time to think of solutions.

C:We've decided to make these RAWSEP talks a regular occurrence! In following shows we might try to tackle Who, What, When, Where and Why! Join us, won't you, to see, in tiny bytes! For now, signing off with best wishes to our "canaries in a coal mine" audience members. Adieu!