

United States. Substack. October 27, 2024. Letters from an American (Heather Cox Richardson). Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The decision of the owners of the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post not to endorse Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Kamala Harris seems to have sparked a backlash. As Will Bunch of the Philadelphia Inquirer noted, "in a strange way the papers did perform a public service: showing American voters what life under a dictator would feel like." RAWSEP View. The October 27, 2024 Substack article by Heather Cox Richardson began with a review of the Nazi-themed 10/27/2024 Madison Square Garden Trump rally. Richardson linked the Trump rally to the fearful media owners who failed to endorse a presidential candidate for the first time in recent history to show the resemblances of the famous and infamous Nazi rally in February 20, 1939 in the old Madison Square Garden to the 2024 Trump deliberately Nazi-like rally in Madison Square Garden yesterday. RAWSEP View. What does this Trump Nazi-like Trump rally have to do with the aims of Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates? In the past, many of us retired the idea of bullies when we reached adulthood. Those of us who shunned bullies as children had worked hard to educate ourselves, learn a skill and achieve a career that paid for our housing and food, and we thought that any bullies who had preyed on us when we were CHILDREN had somehow also evolved and become contributing members of society. Since 2016 adult bullies have prospered under the patronage of Trump. The idea of bullying as a political force means that voters are NOT appealed to by reason, nor by appeals to intelligent problem solving, nor by appeals of working together to enact public health measures, for instance. Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates is working to educate the public about how to solve the problem of air pollution in the form of PM2.5 entering the yards and infiltrating the homes of near neighbors of indoor residential wood burners first and foremost. Because RAWSEP is interested in intelligent problem solving we have educated ourselves about the identical or extremely similar air pollution in the form of PM2.5 from industrial wood burning plants and the extreme similarity of the air pollution from wildfire wood burning. Indoor residential wood burning emissions of CO2 and PM2.5 also contribute to hastening climate change and in a feedback loop indoor residential wood burning causes more wildfires and more PM2.5 air pollution if indoor residential wood burning is unchecked. Wildfires may be an act of god in some ways when nature has the upper hand with the aid of climate change, but indoor residential wood burning can be prevented. Just don't burn wood to begin with. Just don't burn wood to begin with. Burning wood is not a human physical addiction like alcoholism or cigarette addiction. Burning wood has logistical challenges from cutting down a living tree, to hauling the wood sometimes great distances and carrying pests with it and storing the wood in a dry place without it igniting and starting a wildfire itself. Burning wood is not an economically intelligent enterprise either for a household. The cost of healthcare and funerals is steep when a household burns wood, not just for the household but for the surrounding households who have the smoke efficiently shunted to near neighbor's backyards and homes when the wood burning household's chimney is well sealed. So efficiently shunting air pollution to near neighbors can be seen as a canny move by indoor residential wood burners. Seemingly the air pollution problem is solved for themselves but those who revel in being bullies can also congratulate themselves that they are bringing ill health and early death to their near neighbors. The strength of bullying has never been so blatant as when an indoor residential wood burner burns. Near neighbors can see the smoke, smell the smoke, have to breathe in the smoke when they venture out of their sealed homes with multiple air purifiers running and those near neighbors usually have no recourse to stop the bullying because presumably the health authorities consider this air pollution invisible because it begins inside a home not for example beginning in a bonfire in the backyard where a firefighter, police officer or health official can walk up to the wood burning in the yard and see what is going on. To fight the bully, Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates take the side of the near neighbor of an indoor residential wood burner rather than taking the point of view of the bullying indoor residential wood burner. However, RAWSEP meets many bullying indoor residential wood burners when meeting the public and attempts to

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understand each individual's motivation for this bullying of their fellow men. The idea put out in the media is that an individual indoor residential wood burner is indigent being too poor to heat their homes by any other means. However when RAWSEP has brought this up, some indoor wood burners concede that they are among the poorest men in society but some are offended that they are perceived as poor and in need of government welfare. But RAWSEP is dedicated to intelligent problem solving and tries always to point out that there are existing government programs for helping with monthly heating bills in the form of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program LIHEAP found at the website [Acf.hhs.gov RAWSEP](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/RAWSEP) View. However, this LIHEAP provides short term monthly assistance and this program seems to expect adults to find heating solutions long term on their own like any contributing member of society. RAWSEP in addition expects adults to find heating solutions that do not pollute the air of near neighbors and is working to enact laws to measure the air pollution in the yards of near neighbors from indoor residential wood burning and shut down those indoor residential wood burning stoves that emit air pollution in the form of PM2.5 that exceeds World Health Organization safe PM2.5 limits of 5 micrograms per cubic meter annually. The 2024 Heat Pump Rebates starting in at least 7 United States this fall will provide those that have households with income at 80 percent of median income or below to receive the entire \$8,000 Heat Pump Rebate which also negates any economic argument for continuing to burn wood for home heating by indoor residential wood burners. Excerpts about LIHEAP from Wikipedia follow. Heat Pump Rebates are covered in other Episodes by RAWSEP. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP, pronounced "lie" "heap") is a United States federal social services program first established in 1981 and funded annually through Congressional appropriations. The mission of LIHEAP is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs. The program, part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is funded by grants appropriated from the federal government. Weatherization funding peaked to over 500 million dollars in 2009 and by 2014 had decreased to about 300. In 2014, it served over 80 thousand households in over 40 states, out of over 5 million in the LIHEAP program. In total since 1976, weatherization assisted over 7 million low-income households, which received free home improvements worth an average of about \$5,000. The most common measures were furnace replacement, attic and wall insulation, and infiltration reduction. A random trial in Michigan estimated that the measures reduced energy consumption by 10-20 % on average. Funding distribution. Funding is distributed to each of the fifty states, U.S. territories and tribal governments through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Administration of the program is left up to state, territorial or tribal governments. Congress also provides the President with limited contingency funds each year, which are reserved for emergency situations and released at the President's discretion. LIHEAP offers one-time financial assistance to qualifying low-income households who require support in paying their home heating or cooling bills. Applicants must have an income less than 150% of federal poverty level or 60% of state median poverty level to be eligible, however some states have expanded their programs to include more households (for example, in Massachusetts, applicants must be within 60% of the estimated State Median Income). LIHEAP provides funding assistance to low-income households, targeting those who are truly vulnerable: the disabled, elderly, and families with preschool-age children. Funding is distributed to states or other governmental entities, who administer the program and stems from four sources including: Block grants, the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program, Contingency Funds, and Leveraging Incentive Programs. Allocations are based on local climate, economic, and demographic formulas. Additional funds may be available in emergency situations or as match funds when contributions are provided by local governments, private businesses, or non-profit organizations. Final distribution of funds is conducted through the program grantees, which are able to design their programs to meet consumer needs while adhering to the goals and policies of LIHEAP. State administration. State legislatures often provide additional appropriations each year to supplement federal LIHEAP funds. In most states, the program is run on a first come-first served basis. |



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