

1 United States Kennedy Junior hearings day two amid concern over Vaccine Skepticism negative impact on national public health 2A California Kensington **Note from the Letter to the Editor writer** Yay! My and my neighbor's letter to the editor got published We have sent a letter to the editor about wood smoke every year for the last 3 years **RAWSEP View** Two near neighbors of an indoor residential wood burner in Kensington California wrote a Letter to the Editor 3A Minnesota A Democrat wins a Minnesota State Senate seat which has led to Democrats regaining control of the Minnesota State Senate **RAWSEP View** This Minnesota State Senate win is relevant to RAWSEP because the nationwide Democratic agenda and most United States Democratic agendas are in sync with previous Biden Administration efforts to fund environmentally friendly policies exemplified by Heat Pump Rebates made available in many states to consumers based on a sliding income scale which Heat Pumps are then made economical to all Heat Pumps in 2025 work down to 40 degrees below zero double as air conditioners and lower monthly electricity bills immediately and are the most rational replacement for indoor residential wood burning for home heating As of January 31 2025 Under the Trump administration apparently when searching for the previous HEAR map showing if states such as Minnesota are part of the Heat Pump Rebate HEAR program online searchers are sent to [https://www.energy.gov/ Restoring Energy Dominance with a picture of a fossil fuel rig with subtitle President Trump Day One Actions Will Return the Department to Regular Order](https://www.energy.gov/Restoring-Energy-Dominance-with-a-picture-of-a-fossil-fuel-rig-with-subtitle-President-Trump-Day-One-Actions-Will-Return-the-Department-to-Regular-Order) 3B Minnesota Heat Pump Rebate program has not yet launched Below are details about the program on a State of Minnesota website as of January 31 2025 <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/heat-pump.jsp> Main Content

1A United States Takeaways From Day 2 of Kennedy Junior Confirmation Hearings Trump nominee for health secretary Kennedy Junior defended his views on vaccines and a key senator still has clear doubts **RAWSEP View** Kennedy Junior hearings day two amid concern over Vaccine Skepticism negative impact on national public health **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** January 30 2025 Kennedy Junior Trump's choice for health secretary plowed through his second day of confirmation hearings on Thursday delivering a defense of his views on vaccination during a contentious three hour session that was high on drama and revealed that a critical Republican senator still had doubts The hearing before the Senate Health Committee was raucous and emotional **Kennedy got into a shouting match with Senator Bernie Sanders** the Vermont independent Kennedy did not shy away from confrontation A key Republican vote is still undecided Senator Bill Cassidy Republican of Louisiana wondered aloud whether Kennedy would use his credibility to support or undermine faith in vaccines Cassidy chairman of the health committee and a doctor also serves on the Senate Finance Committee the panel that will determine whether Kennedy's nomination moves forward to the Senate floor Cassidy opened the hearing by recounting the story of a patient who needed a liver transplant He said that caring for the woman was the worst day of my medical career because he knew a \$50 vaccine could have prevented her fate Your past of undermining confidence in vaccines with unfounded or misleading arguments concerns me Cassidy said Can I trust that that is now in the past? Can data and information change your opinion or will you only look for data supporting a predetermined conclusion? By the end of the hearing Cassidy made clear that his questions had not been answered He wondered aloud whether Kennedy would use his credibility to support or undermine faith in vaccines saying I've got to figure that out for my vote If Cassidy votes against Kennedy in the Finance Committee Kennedy could still have a vote on the Senate floor if Republican leaders employ procedural tactics to force it But if Democrats remain united in their opposition Kennedy can afford to lose only three Republican votes if he is to win final confirmation Two other Republicans seen as potential no votes Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Senator Susan Collins of Maine are members of the health committee and pressed Kennedy on vaccines Of the two Ms Murkowski expressed more skepticism and seemed more likely to vote against Kennedy She told him that Alaska had made considerable gains in vaccinating the many people in very rural areas where one disease outbreak can wipe out an entire village She implored him Use your podium your platform to promote trust in vaccination Kennedy showed little inclination to try to change the discussion on Thursday When Cassidy asked him to reassure mothers unequivocally and without qualification that the



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Climate change, air pollution and chronic respiratory diseases: understanding risk factors and the need for adaptive strategies

measles and hepatitis B vaccines do not cause autism Kennedy started to say he would not go into the job with any preconceived notions Cassidy cut him off telling him it was a yes or no question but Kennedy would not budge insisting that he still needed to be convinced Kennedy also stood by a statement that Black people should adhere to different immunization schedules He told Senator Angela Alsobrooks Democrat of Maryland and one of two Black women on the panel that research showed that Black people needed fewer antigens the components of vaccines that provoke an immune response Ms Alsobrooks cut him off Kennedy with all due respect that is so dangerous she said Your voice would be a voice that parents would listen to Senator Rand Paul suggested during the hearing that infants did not need to be vaccinated against hepatitis B at birth Cassidy stepped in to contradict him Ms Murkowski described him as an influencer when she pleaded with him not to sow doubt in vaccines Bernie Sanders has his own grass roots movement as Kennedy Junior pointedly reminded the room I ran for president like you! Kennedy addressed Sanders as Bernie a breach of protocol for a witness addressing a senator before delivering a lecture wrapped up in a rebuke Senator Bernie Sanders the health care system is broken It's not working he said You've been working on it your entire career as Americans get less and less healthier as premiums go up Trump has asked me to fix it for the American people

2A California Kensington **Note from the Letter to the Editor writer** Yay! My and my neighbor's letter to the editor got published We have sent a letter to the editor about wood smoke every year for the last 3 years **RAWSEP View** Two near neighbors of an indoor residential wood burner in Kensington California wrote a Letter to the Editor From the article Kensington East Bay February 2025 Kensington Letter Published in Letters to the Editor titled Burning Wood Impacts All **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Dear Editor: This is a letter to thank those neighbors who have stopped burning wood and a gentle reminder to please help protect our community's health by not burning wood We are both mothers of children with health conditions and Kristel is an asthmatic who has had attacks from wood smoke in Kensington Residential wood burning is the top source of the worst kind of air pollution fine particulate matter in the Bay Area The Bay Area is still among the worst 10 metropolitan areas for air quality according to the Lung Association As with lead or asbestos there are no safe levels of air pollution for anyone Particulate matter is thought to harm every organ of the body and causes or worsens many illnesses including but not limited to COVID RSV pertussis influenza asthma cancers eczema dementia Parkinson's heart disease strokes diabetes et cetera Particulate matter can also cause or is linked to negative psychological phenomena like depression mental slowness and even violence Because trees even decomposing ones hold carbon this is also a climate issue Because trees can't grow as fast as they burn and because they are important to ecosystems climate activists Greta Thunberg and Bill McKibben are against burning wood biomass Plant debris can be sent to compost pickup Some good news: Wood smoke is being phased out in the same way cigarettes were Canberra is banning wood burning by 2045 and the city of Utrecht in the Netherlands set a wood burning ban by 2030 In the Bay Area the Clean HEET program funding to help people switch from wood burning devices to heat pumps has restarted Builders of new houses or expensive renovations continue to not be allowed to install wood burning devices in the Bay Area Our air district is also looking for other ways to reduce wood smoke in the Bay Area Thank you so much for thinking of people's and our planet's health and please see Doctors and Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution <https://www.dsawsp.org> for more information 2B **RAWSEP Interjection** For those reading the facts about wood smoke pollution from indoor residential wood burning RAWSEP interjects with this information in addition to what was explained in the Letter to the Editor above **RAWSEP View** the United States Government should instead of certifying wood stoves as safe when they are not safe go forward with regulations that ban wood stove use and direct government money for use of forest refuse only for home building and furniture building for just a few examples of use of forest products for non burning uses This article in a wood burning industry magazine admits that wood burning is a substantial source of PM2.5 emissions Yet this article since it is in a magazine that is an arm of the wood burning industry states that this wood burning should continue presumably because it is called renewable Wood may be renewable in the sense that a tree can be planted in the place of a cut down burned tree but it takes centuries or decades for the newly planted tree to attain the stature of the cut down burned tree During those centuries or decades photosynthesis which converts CO2 to oxygen and so sequesters some carbon will not take place at the same rate as



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FEBRUARY 2025

KENSINGTON

Letters to the Editor

Burning Wood Impacts All

Dear Editor:

This is a letter to thank those neighbors who have stopped burning wood, and a gentle reminder to please help protect our community's health by not burning wood.

We are both mothers of children with health conditions, and Kristel is an asthmatic who has had attacks from wood smoke in Kensington. Residential wood burning is the top source of the worst kind of air pollution, fine particulate matter, in the Bay Area. The Bay Area is still among the worst 10 metropolitan areas for air quality, according to the Lung Association. As with lead or asbestos, there are no safe levels of air pollution for anyone.

Particulate matter is thought to harm every organ of the body, and causes or worsens many illnesses—including but not limited to COVID, RSV, pertussis, influenza, asthma, cancers, eczema, dementia, Parkinson's, heart disease, strokes, diabetes, etc. Particulate matter can also cause or is linked to negative psychological phenomena like depression, mental slowness, and even violence.

Because trees, even decomposing ones, hold carbon, this is also a climate issue. Because trees can't grow as fast as they burn, and because they are important to ecosystems, climate activists Greta Thunberg and Bill McKibben are against burning wood biomass. Plant debris can be sent to compost pickup.

Some good news: Wood smoke is being phased out in the same way cigarettes were. Canberra is banning wood burning by 2045, and the city of Utrecht in the Netherlands set a wood burning ban by 2030. In the Bay Area, the "Clean HEET" program—funding to help people switch from wood burning devices to heat pumps—has restarted. Builders of new houses or expensive renovations continue to not be allowed to install wood burning devices in the Bay Area. Our air district is also looking for other ways to reduce wood smoke in the Bay Area.

Thank you so much for thinking of people's and our planet's health, and please see Doctors + Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution (<https://www.dsawsp.org>) for more information.

Yay! My and my neighbor's letter to the editor got published. We have sent a letter to the editor about wood smoke every year for the last 3 years. Kensington, East Bay.

photosynthesis was performed previously And wood burning emits both CO2 and PM2.5 and PM2.5 is not absorbed by trees so PM2.5 is not diminished by planting a tree in the place of a cut down and burned tree Wood burning emits 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 Contrary to many beliefs wood burning emits 2.8 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel coal burning and wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning Replacing coal burning with wood burning creates more air pollution in the form of CO2 and PM2.5 than coal burning This emission data comes from testing the cleanest burning wood stove in the United Kingdom the EcoDesign wood stove An international convention does not count the emissions from wood burning The emissions from wood burning are erased from all countries around the world when calculating if each country has met its Climate Goals This non counting or erasure of wood burning emissions data from Climate Goals does not mean wood burning emissions do not exist

3A Minnesota A Democrat wins a Minnesota State Senate seat which has led to Democrats regaining control of the Minnesota State Senate Minnesota [RAWSEP View](#) This Minnesota State Senate win is relevant to RAWSEP because the nationwide Democratic agenda and most Democratic agendas of United States are in sync with previous Biden Administration efforts to fund environmentally friendly policies exemplified by Heat Pump Rebates made available in many states to consumers based on a sliding income scale which Heat Pumps are then made economical to all Heat Pumps in 2025 work down to 40 degrees below zero double as air conditioners and lower monthly electricity bills immediately and are the most rational replacement for indoor residential wood burning for home heating As of January 31 2025 Under the Trump administration apparently when searching for the previous HEAR map showing if states such as Minnesota are part of the Heat Pump Rebate HEAR program online searchers are sent to [https://www.energy.gov/Restoring Energy Dominance](https://www.energy.gov/Restoring-Energy-Dominance) with a picture of a fossil fuel rig with subtitle President Trump Day One Actions Will Return the Department to Regular Order Main Content [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) MPR News Staff January 28 2025 Doron Clark wins Senate special election Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party DFLers take back the Minnesota Senate Doron Clark won the senate race for District 60 on Tuesday evening Doron Clark wins Senate special election DFLers take back the Minnesota Senate Democrats will regain control of the Minnesota Senate following a convincing special election win Tuesday DFLer Doron Clark won in the deep blue Minneapolis district with 90 percent of the vote according to unofficial results He succeeds Sen Kari Dziedzic whose death in December left the Senate in a 33-33 tie According to Hennepin County the results will be canvassed on Wednesday That could be quick enough for Clark to be sworn in next week While the next floor session is Thursday state law requires seven days to pass from the canvassing board's action to issuance of an election certificate Clark works in ethics and compliance at Medtronic graduated with degrees in religion and economics from Hamline University in 1996 When Clark takes office it will restore the one vote edge for Democrats in the Senate and likely spell the end of a power sharing deal between the caucuses when the chamber was equally divided or the opening weeks of the session Senate DFL Leader Erin Murphy announced His election will restore the DFL majority that has accomplished so much for Minnesota these past two years 3B Minnesota Heat Pump Rebate program has not yet launched [RAWSEP View](#) Below are details about the program on a State of Minnesota website as of January 31 2025 <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/heat-pump.jsp> Residential Heat Pump Rebate Program HomeConsumer HelpNew Energy ProgramsResidential Heat Pump Rebate Program Consumer Protection Notice Advisory No.: 2024-005 Issued: December 5, 2024, at 08:00 CST Last Updated: December 5, 2024 at 14:03 CST Expires: March 3, 2025 at 23:59 CST Version: 1.3 The Residential Heat Pump Rebate Program has not launched: No rebates currently available No estimated program launch date Wait for official announcements from the Minnesota Department of Commerce before considering offers or applying Register for announcements Subscribe to the Consumer Announcements newsletter to receive email updates for individuals including consumers, homeowners, renters and the general public. Overview



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-	The influence exerted by air pollution on interregional workforce migration has garnered considerable attention in ecological economics over time; however, relatively scant consideration has been given to its effects on...
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