

**MARTIN T. CAUSER, MEMBER**  
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 28, 2009

Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed correspondence from my constituent, Mr. Rich Curfman, 18 Brophy Avenue, Roulette, PA 16746. Please consider Mr. Curfman's written comments regarding the outdoor wood burning regulations.

Thank you for your consideration to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Martin T. Causer  
State Representative  
67<sup>th</sup> District

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MTC/jd  
Enclosures

**Martin Causer - Re: Outdoor wood-fired boilers**

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**From:** "Rich Curfman" <yogirs@verizon.net>  
**To:** <Mcauser@pahousegop.com>  
**Date:** 12/27/2009 11:42 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Outdoor wood-fired boilers

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December 26, 2009

Environmental Quality Board:

I purchased an outside wood boiler in 2006 after going through the prior heating season with heating bills in excess of \$400.00 per month. My home with those bills was still cold and my family wore sweatshirts. Since installing my central boiler my daughter's visits to the doctor have dropped by 60%. I am now able to keep our home warmer. This in turn has provided me with an opportunity to spend some additional money on repairs (new windows) ect. to my home which has saved on heating.

I have been able to utilize a renewable resource for my heating purpose, improved several log job landings by cleaning up ends that were left over, that would have otherwise gone to waste.

This new legislation is not reasonable for some geographical regions of Pennsylvania. I live in North Central PA, (Potter County), I'm sure your aware of our population for the entire county is just over 16,000 people, (1081 sq. miles). I can completely understand some regulations being put on more populated cities, counties, such as Philadelphia, Harrisburg or Lancaster, Bucks counties ect..

In my neighborhood from viewing distance of my home there are 7 homes that heat from woodstoves within there homes and there are 3 residents that have outside furnaces. I have been a volunteer fireman for several years I have never been to a residential fire caused by an outside furnace, two of the above mentioned residents with inside stoves we have been to in the past for chimney and internal wall fires.

Of the 21 homes that are in my neighborhood - (keep in mind 6 of these homes are more than 150 yards away) 9 residents and 1 business heat with wood. The above statements clearly speak for themselves # 1 safety of these burners is obvious and # 2 the people of Northern Pennsylvania have to utilize a renewable resource to be able to pay their bills on the wages being earned and wood is one of the means of doing so.

When I purchased my outdoor wood furnace I did extensive research on the brand to purchase. I chose (central boiler) because of their tract record and efficiency, the proper build of the stack and in viewing several other brands there seemed to be less smoke produced. I purchased this stove in good faith and have followed all regulations and have taken good safety measures when I installed my boiler. I can understand some reasonable guidelines to be followed on future new purchases, but I am **100% opposed** to the changes that have been proposed for existing boilers.

Common sense has to be applied when enacting new regulations such as the one being proposed, geographical areas and reasonability must be accessed. Resident's within the commonwealth that have made this investment prior to this proposal should not be penalized for following regulations that were and currently still are in place.

In closing I respectfully encourage you to look at all regions of our state before enacting legislation that is suitable for a metropolitan area. The economic impact this proposed legislation would cause will be extensive to the average homeowner, the individual's selling firewood, and the businesses selling outside furnaces.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Rich Curfman  
18 Brophy Avenue  
Roulette, PA 16746  
814-544-4063  
[yogirs@verizon.net](mailto:yogirs@verizon.net)